



Quarterly Report for the Women Power in Politics Programme Iraq

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Annexes to this report: The annexes to this report will be sent after May 11th for logistical reasons. Please accept our sincere apologies for this. They will include the power point presentations and background materials used during the two TOTs and the workshops with the election candidates.

General progress		
<input type="radio"/> BEHIND SCHEDULE	<input checked="" type="radio"/> ON TARGET	<input type="radio"/> AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Introduction

This is the second quarterly report of the Women Power in Politics Programme Iraq. It covers the first three months of 2014, a very crucial period of time for our programme. It was also the period in which Hivos had a site visit from DRL. In addition to this report, but separately, Hivos will send DRL a revised draft of the Scope of Work for further discussion, as well as the revised budget and M&E scheme, as discussed with DRL during the site visit.

The whole programme had a slight delay, due to various reasons. One of these reasons was the fact that the list of election candidates was not available until January 2014 and the official final list of candidates (issued by the Iraqi Independent High Electoral Commission) even not until March 31st, when the official election campaigns started. This made the selection process of the female candidates more time consuming. In addition, at the start of the programme, the selection of trainers took place a little later than originally planned, which had its effect on the subsequent activities. This was just slightly behind schedule and still in time to have all 27 local trainers prepared and ready-to-go to conduct the training of election candidates in February-March, as well as to enter the second stage with the 'high potential' candidates in March-April. Of course, in these few months before the elections, any delay would increase the time pressure, but because the delay was small it did not have major consequences. In any case, Election Day on April 30th is a hard deadline anyway and the programme will enter a new stage after May 1st. For that reason, we consider the programme to be slightly behind schedule, but still fairly on target. That is reflected in the assessment of the general progress (see above).

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Relevant developments during past 3 months

The federal Parliamentary elections in Iraq will take place on Wednesday 30 April 2014. The election campaigns officially started on March 30th so the candidates would have one month for their campaigns. The elections will take place in all governorates of Iraq, including the ones in the Kurdish autonomous region (not related to the Kurdish parliament, but to the Kurdish representation in federal Iraqi Parliament). In the Kurdish region, the federal Parliamentary elections will be combined with elections for the Governorate Council.

The official candidates' list was issued very late, actually at the moment when the official campaign period started, and even then the list continued to be revised. All political parties had submitted their candidates lists to the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) in early January 2014. IHEC took almost three months to check and approve all nine thousand proposed candidates and issue the final list of candidates at the end of March. Over 300 candidates¹, including some party leaders, had been rejected for various reasons. A few of these rejected candidates were later allowed to return to the election process, but the leaders of some parties are still banned, although some of them are members in the current Iraqi Parliament. The rejected candidates were (almost) all men.

The candidates' list contains approximately 2600 female candidates, almost 29% - slightly more than the 25% official quota for women's representation in Parliament (and state commissions).



Female candidates on election posters.

Many political parties have been forming coalitions, often on a sectarian basis. One of the main coalitions is an informal Shia coalition existing of Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki's party Dawlat Al-Qanun, as well as Taysr Al-Dawla Al-Adela, Tajamua Al-Nahdha Al-Shamila and I'tilaf Al-Wifaq Al-Iraqi. The other major coalitions are Al-Muwatin coalition, Al-Ahrar (Shia) coalition, Mutahidun Lil-Eslah (Sunni) coalition (lead by the Speaker of the Iraqi parliament, Osma al-Nujaifi) and the Kurdish Alliance. In addition, there are some smaller Shia coalitions such as Al-Nukhab movement and Al-Sharaka Al-Watania coalition, as well as Christian coalitions. Moqtadar Al-Sadr, who resigned from politics, is still active on the background. There were no specific themes that dominated the election campaigns. Controlling the safety situation is a theme that continues to be relevant, as well as improving the basic and social services and the national economy. The Jaafari Law proposal, proposed to Parliament by the government but then withdrawn again, was not really a campaign theme. Among other things, the Jaafari Law would legitimize child marriage among the Shia part of the population.

¹ Comparison of the draft list which Al-Amal had received from IHEC in January 2014 (containing in total 9345 candidates) and the final list of March 31st (containing 9025 candidates) shows a difference of 320. On April 24th the IHEC list contained 9032 candidates. See the IHEC website for the latest list.

As expected, in the run-up to the elections the security situation was getting worse, especially in Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Anbar, Diyala, Ninewa and Kirkuk. Terrorist groups intensified their activities in these areas, while the Iraqi security forces performed weakly. It is alleged that Prime Minister Al-Maliki supported some Shia militias, in particular Asaib Ahl Al-Haq². The safety situation affected the WPP programme. The training workshops for candidates from Anbar, Ninewa and Baghdad governorates were held on alternative safe locations elsewhere. In Tikrit (in Salah Al-Din governorate) a bomb explosion took place on the morning of the first training day there. No one was hurt. Hilla (in Babil governorate) witnessed 17 explosions during the period that we conducted the first two training workshops there. A third workshop was cancelled for logistical reasons, but that was a fortunate decision, because at the planned date a huge explosion took place in Hilla's main entry point, as a result of which about 100 persons were killed. Most participants in our training workshop would have used that entry point as well.

During the past months, politics in Iraq was disturbed by the turmoil in Anbar province, with heavy armed combat between Al-Qaeda aligned Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant or Islamic State of Iraq and Syria³ (ISIS or ISIL), the national security forces, and tribal groups from Anbar, especially in the cities Ramadi and Faluja. The conflict further fueled sectarian differences and tensions between Shiites and Sunnis. It also further decreased the trust in the government.

This confidence in the authorities was challenged for years already, by its poor performance in terms of providing basic and social services and creating job opportunities, as well as by the ongoing widespread corruption and nepotism, on all levels of all state institutions. This lack of trust in the government reflects on all political parties and coalitions, on the elections and in fact on the whole democratic process. Common citizens do not believe that a new government would do any better than the previous one. None of the candidates who were supported from the WPP programme was harassed, injured or killed. None of them was specifically targeted. There was a fuss when in various places men had publicly kissed and violated posters of female election candidates. The media covered the issue and condemned it, calling it humiliating. The Ministry of Women's and Family Affairs issued a statement showing that the minister was upset about this, claiming that this violated Iraqi morals for behavior in public and announced a fine for violators who harass campaign posters.



Programme successes during past 3 months

These three months preceding the election campaigns (starting from March 31st) and Election Day (April 30th) showed a lot of activities with quite some outreach. Below are some of the programme successes in the past three months.

To start with, we **selected and trained 27 local trainers from all governorates in Iraq** to train and support female election candidates. The capacities and experience of these local trainers (with a gender balance of almost 1:1) was impressive. The best and most dedicated ones were also invited for the second stage: the training and support to 'high potential' candidates. This group of 14 trainers for the second stage no longer showed a fair gender balance and geographical coverage of the country, but we went for quality and dedication. We **trained the 14 selected local trainers for the second stage** as

² عصائب اهل الحق

³ الدولة الاسلامية في العراق والشام

well. Two Training of Trainers have taken place in this reporting period: in January for the first stage and in March for the second stage.

Furthermore, **the local trainers trained and supported 816 female candidates in all governorates of Iraq**, despite the sometimes troublesome safety situation (in some cases, for safety reasons, the training was held on an alternative location). These 816 candidates represented a wide variety of **different political parties and political blocs**, sometimes up to 22 different parties in one workshop.

In several cases, this led to **stronger public performance of trained candidates**, more innovative as well (for example using Facebook in their campaign), as well as more **media coverage for female candidates**. Such media coverage gave the candidates more confidence and access to new audiences. The trainers helped the female candidates to get more and stronger public exposure, via the training workshops, but also in personal consultations. We also worked with media workers to create this exposure.

In the following stage, from this larger group of 816 candidates, **246 'high potential' candidates from different parties and different governorates were trained and supported**. That is the number until March 31st. This work started in March and continued in April.

These are all small successes in a larger endeavour to get more and more capable women in Iraqi Parliament. So, one of the success indicators will be the number of female candidates, who were trained in the framework of the WPP programme, that will actually take a seat in Parliament after April 30th, especially when they earned this seat with votes specifically for them (so, not on basis of the 25% quota for women). It is too early to reflect on this now.

Besides this, a lot still depends on the willingness of the leadership of political parties and blocs to give space to strong and critical women from their own circles. For that reason, we have worked with political parties as well, to do some "massage" work for the benefit of political participation of qualified women beyond the level of the obligatory 25% quota for women. It is also too early to reflect on this issue now. The days after the election will show the results of these efforts.

In general, this training and support is expected to improve the opportunities of these women to operate in the public sphere – also when they will not take a seat in Parliament.

Implementation of the programme during past 3 months

Schematic comparison of the timeline with the realized activities during the past quarter shows the following picture. More detailed information per activity is given below the scheme.

Realization of WPP workplan according to the timeline	2014			
	Quarter:	4	5	6
Activity:	Month:	Jan	Feb	Mar
0. Program inception and building support				
0.0. Creating administrative basis for the program				
0.1. Hiring staff and contracting trainers		OK		OK
0.2. Buying supplies		OK		
0.3. Inception meeting of the program				
1. Capacity building and assistance to female aspirants				
1.0. Preparatory meeting for Training of Trainers				
1.1. Training of trainers		OK		
1.2. Local seminars for basic skills			OK	OK
1.3. Assistance during elections			OK	OK
1.4. Elections (30 April)				
2. Capacity building and assistance to high potentials				
2.0. Training of trainers				OK
2.1. Selection of high potentials				OK
2.2. Support to trainers				OK
2.3. Advanced trainings and networking sessions for high potentials				OK
2.4. Practical support to high potentials				OK
3. Long term assistance to elected female representatives				
3.1. Training of trainers				

3.2. Continuous support to female MPs and institutions			
3.3. Advanced training workshops to elected MPs in Baghdad			
3.4. Advanced training workshops to elected MPs in Erbil			
3.5. Visit and exchange workshop from MPs from the Netherlands ⁴			OK
3.6. Meetings to create more support from civil society			
4. Engagement of political parties			
4.1. Discussion and educational meetings with Iraqi political parties			OK
4.2. Exchange with Dutch political parties (see 3.5)			OK
4.3. Training and engagement of high potentials in influencing parties			
5. Awareness raising and education of female voters			
5.1. Regional stakeholder conferences			
5.2. Local community meetings for direct awareness raising			
5.3. Engaging and informing influential media and journalists		OK	OK
5.4. Workshop with journalists and media professionals			
6. Monitoring & evaluation			
6.1. Regular monitoring	OK	OK	OK
6.2. Planning and Monitoring visits	OK		
6.3. Mid term evaluation			
6.4. End of term evaluation			
6.5. Conference to share results of the program incl. findings of research			
6.6. Reporting	OK		
6.7. Audit			

What follows here is more detailed information about the activities that were conducted in the period January-March 2014 (following the sequence of the timeline, shown above).

Activity 0.1	Hiring staff	Planning: October 2013
O BEHIND SCHEDULE	✓ ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

In January 2014 ten Regional Coordinators from all over Iraq were assigned and came together in Erbil to discuss the programme and how they would be involved. Later some more Regional Coordinators were assigned, bringing the total to **thirteen Regional Coordinators** to be able to cover all governorates of Iraq. The team of Regional Coordinators included people from various civil society organizations in the regions, as well as staff of Al-Amal offices and the WPP team itself. It was decided to have more Regional Coordinators than initially planned in order to minimize the security risks in the run-up to the election campaigns and avoid travel restrictions in this period, meanwhile still being able to cover all governorates of Iraq. This decision does not affect the budget.

The Regional Coordinators were selected on basis of their knowledge (in terms of training, collaboration with political parties and blocs, relation to official institutions), their relationship with the Iraqi Women's Network or with the Iraqi Al-Amal Association, as well as a fair gender and geographic balance in the team. The following people were selected and assigned as Regional Coordinators of the WPP programme:

Name	Governorates covered	Representative of
Ms Fatima Al-Bahadly	Basra	Al-Firdus Organisation
Mr Saad Jabar Al-Batat	Maysan	Al-Khair Organisation
Ms Feryal Al-Qabi	Qadisiya	Awan Organisation
Mr Salah Al-Badri	Babil	Al-Inma'a Centre
Mr Munaf Abdel-Latif Al-Any	Anbar	Al-Mahaba wa Al-Salam Organisation
Mr Abdul-Aziz Al-Jarba	Ninewa	Al-Tahrir Organisation
Ms Amina Goyani	Sulaimaniya	Al-Amal WPP team

⁴ Preparations started in February 2014. It was agreed to have the exchange in August 2014.

	Arbil Dohuk	
Ms Nisreen Al-Amidi	Karbala	Al-Amal WPP team
Mr Falah Al-Alusi	Diyala Wasit Muthanna	Al-Amal WPP team
Ms Surud Mohammed Faleh	Kirkuk	Al-Amal office Kirkuk
Mr Safa'a Nadhum	Najaf	Al-Amal office Najaf
Ms Zahra'a Faisal	Dhi Qar	Al-Amal office <u>Nasiriya</u>
Ms Najla'a Al-Ghazali	Salah Al-Din	Al-Amal focal point Tikrit
Various Al-Amal team members	Baghdad	Al-Amal HQ Baghdad

While Mr Falah Al-Alusi was covering Diyala and Wasit provinces in cooperation with the WPP national project manager Mr Jamal Al-Jawahiri, he did this also for Muthanna governorate, together with trainer Mr Haidar Al-'Owadi (without any additional costs). The staff of Al-Amal head quarters in Baghdad was following up the work in Baghdad governorate. This includes selecting and contacting female candidates and organizing the training.

Regional Coordinators were hired for three months (February-April 2014), but not all Regional Coordinators on the list were paid for that specific work. Hired and paid were Ms Fatima Al-Bahadly, Ms Feryal Al-Qabi, Mr Salah Al-Badri, Mr Munaf Abdel-Latif Al-Any, Ms Surud Mohammed Faleh, Mr Safa'a Nadhum, Ms Zahra'a Faisal, Ms Najla'a Al-Ghazali. Ms Amina Goyani, who was originally one of the National Coordinators, changed position and was now hired and paid as Regional Coordinator for 5 months. That makes nine Regional Coordinators paid for that task.

Mr Falah Al-Alusi is full-time National Coordinator and Ms Nisreen Al-Amidi full-time Training Coordinator, so they were paid in that function and not specifically for this Regional Coordination task.

Mr Saad Jabar Al-Batat and Mr Abdul-Aziz Al-Jarba were not paid at all. They worked as volunteers. Some people were both regional coordinator and trainer. This applies to Saad Jabar Al-Batat, Salah Al-Badri, Munaf Abdel-Latif Al-Any and Najla'a Al-Ghazali. As mentioned, Saad Al-Batat did the work voluntarily. Salah Al-Badri, Munaf Al-Any and Najla'a Al-Ghazali were chosen as regional coordinators because their communications and relations with NGOs and political parties in their own governorates are very good and the provinces are big. In addition, the safety situation forced us to depend on people who know the programme well.

The hiring of staff was planned for planned for October 2013, but the contracting of the Regional Coordinators could wait until January 2014. For that reason, we consider this activity to have been realized in time / on target.

As may be clear from the above mentioned, during the past three months, the WPP programme had two **National Coordinators** instead of three (as indicated in the previous report). The two National Coordinators were Mr Falah Al-Alusi and Mr George Nichola, while Ms Amina Goyani, who was originally one of the National Coordinators, worked as Regional Coordinator.

Activity 0.1	Contracting trainers	Planning: October 2013
✓ BEHIND SCHEDULE	○ ON TARGET	○ AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

After the application and selection process in December 2013, **27 trainers** from all governorates of Iraq were contracted in January 2014 (14 men and 13 women). Their names were given in the previous quarterly report.

All 27 selected trainers signed a commitment agreement for the following commitments:

1. They must conduct training workshops in their own governorates and/or nearby provinces, in both stages (in the first stage for two days and the second stage for six days). Training fees would be paid on basis of the number of training workshops they would actually conduct.
2. They must coordinate and conduct a number of meetings and visits to national media institutions in order to improve role of the media in supporting Iraqi women's participation in politics, thus promoting their chances to win in the upcoming elections.
3. A smaller group of selected candidates will be assigned to provide consultations by telephone to women nominated in 2014 elections, upon their request, during the electoral campaign. Fees for this service would be decided upon later.

In March 2014, after completing the trainings of the first phase in all Iraqi provinces, out of this group of 27 trainers **14 trainers** were selected for the next stage: the capacity building and assistance to high potential candidates. They participated in the extra training of trainers in March and then started the work of the next stage. This was slightly behind schedule, but not much.

The 14 trainers for the second stage were selected on basis of the following criteria:

- Quality of the work and dedication in conducting the training workshops in phase 1 of the programme;
- Estimation that we need them in phase 2 of the programme;
- Expectation that women candidates will indeed consult them (this especially applied to some trainers, with whom the trained women candidates kept in direct communication after the training workshops of the first phase were completed);
- Estimation that we may need them as trainers or facilitators in other parts of the programme as well.

Gender balance and geographical balance were explicit aims, but not used as hard criteria. It was decided that quality and dedication should be the main criteria. In addition, not all trainers who were invited for the second stage, could participate in the second TOT or in the second stage altogether: Ms Ru'a Ahmad Shawkat (Arbil), Ms Wathba Abd-al-Latif Al-Tayar (Baghdad), Mr Falah Moradkhan Shakaram (Sulaimaniya) and Mr Salah Al-Badri (Babil) had travel commitments, Ms Zaman Khalil Abd-Allah Al-Obaidi (Diyala) had a broken leg and Mr Hamid Jahjih (Baghdad) apologized because his wife had a broken leg. Six trainers from the first group were not invited for the second stage. One trainer had withdrawn during the first phase: Ms Ra'la Mustafa Hamud from Salah Al-Din. Her role was taken over by Ms Najla' Al-Ghazali from the same governorate.

This resulted in a disbalanced group in terms of gender (9 men and 5 women) and geographical spread (with overrepresentation of Anbar and Basra governorates, and underrepresentation of Arbil, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Karbala, Ninewa and Sulaimaniya governorates). This is something we regretted, but also saw as a consequence of going for quality and dedication. The underrepresentation will not have mayor negative consequences for these provinces. All governorates are still covered.

The 14 trainers selected for the second stage:

Governorate	WPP Trainer for second stage
Anbar	Ms Wisam Al-Rawi
Anbar	Mr Munaf Abdel-Latif Al-Any
Babil	Mr Yas Khadher Al-Ardawi
Baghdad	Ms Salima Inisal
Basra	Mr Wasfi Hashem Al-Shara'a
Basra	Mr Mohammad Ali Abdul-Ridha Al-Salman Afluk
Dohuk	Mr Shirzad Mohammad Bir Musa
Kirkuk	Ms Nazanin Anwar Mohammad

Maysan	Mr Sa'ad Jabar Al-Batat
Muthanna	Mr Haidar Al-'Owadi
Najaf	Ms Nagham Kadhum
Qadisiya	Mr Ahmad Mohammad
Salah Al-Din	Ms Najla' Al-Ghazali
Wasit	Mr Maher Mahmud Nasir

Hivos has done the check in the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) in the US Department of State System for Award Management (SAM) on <https://www.sam.gov> when they were first selected as trainers.

Activity 0.1	Contracting trainers of trainers	Planning: October 2013
✓ BEHIND SCHEDULE	O ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Two **trainers of trainers** were contracted in for the TOT of January 2014: Ms Anne Graumans from the Netherlands and Ms Ilham Makki Hammadi from Iraq.

In March 2014, Anne Graumans was again contracted as **trainer of trainer** for an extra TOT before the second stage started (see activity 2.0). This had not been planned in the original application, but proposed in the previous quarterly report.

Activity 0.2	Buying supplies	Planning: October 2013
✓ BEHIND SCHEDULE	O ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

In January 2014 a third laptop was purchased, a Samsung Ultrabook with Intel Core i5 and with Windows 8.1. The remaining laptops would be purchased later.

Activity 1.1	Training of trainers	Planning: December 2013
✓ BEHIND SCHEDULE	O ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The six-day Training of Trainers took place on 12-17 January 2014 in Erbil. This was slightly behind schedule, but not much, and still in time to have all 27 local trainers prepared and ready-to-go to conduct the training of election candidates in February-March. The slight delay in the organization of the TOT was related to the selection of local trainers and trainers of trainers. In this stage, any delay increases the time pressure, but fortunately the delay was small. It did not have major consequences for the rest of the programme.

The Training of Trainers for the first stage was meant to train and prepare 27 trainers from all 18 provinces of Iraq to ensure that they would have all tools needed to empower women candidates for the 2014 Parliamentary elections.

The TOT focused on essential principles that can support female candidates during and after they run their campaigns for the Parliamentary elections in 2014. The topics of the TOT were:

- 1) Gender: definition of gender, the social and cultural dimensions of gender, the social structure of gender and sex, definitions and concepts of gender and its current condition in Iraq. Gender based labour division, social values, social institutions: levels of developing gender concept.
- 2) The political systems: definition and introduction to the political systems, political system in Iraq.
- 3) Elections: the electoral process in Iraq, division of seats on basis of election results.
- 4) Women's participation in the political process: general aspects of women participation in politics, types of political participation, obstacles that women face in participating in politics including the national and

international agreements (approved and ratified by Iraq) and examples from former Iraqi female parliament members as case studies.

- 5) Campaigning part 1: “campaign preparations”, how to prepare a campaign, mechanism of communicating with voters, evaluation of campaign needs, how to use different tools such as SWOT analysis and focus groups, methods of defining the central message for the campaign (depending on the general or individual election programme), how to use 6Cs, AIDA, KiSS methods.
Campaigning part 2: “communication with voters”, how to communicate with communities and voters, target groups, how to attract voters in communities.
Campaigning part 3: “communicating through media”, how to develop communications, how to deal professionally with media, how to reach to voters through media, how to create and deliver a powerful speech, topics which attract media and journalists, introduction to social media, creation of private media (examples from worldwide experiences).
- 6) Training skills part 1: “learning”, how to become a trainer and not a teacher, how can achieve learning process through five steps, how do people learn, what are the important things for a trainer, training and facilitating gender sensitivity.
Training skills part 2: “work with groups”, how to manage the energy within a group, how to ensure a positive environment for training, how to provide feedback, how to give instructions to the group.
Training skills part 3: “training women in politics”, how to train women in the political sector in the future, training challenges in political atmosphere and communication and interaction with supporters.
- 7) Follow-up: the future training in the framework of the Women Power in Politics programme in Iraq, two phases of the programme. Also introducing trainers to the tools and training materials that will be used.

In the training Iraqi and international experience and knowledge were used, brought in by one Dutch trainer (Anne Graumans) and one Iraqi trainer (Ilham Makki). Both trainers took care of the programme parts they had prepared themselves, but they were also participating and assisting in each other’s sessions. This combination worked well. In addition, a representative of IHEC Arbil delivered a presentation about the election system in Iraq.

A variety of different training techniques were applied. The training included plenary sessions with power point presentations and flipcharts, plenary discussions, discussions and work in small working groups with plenary reporting and feedback, practical exercises, roles plays, etc. The training was held in Arabic and English, with simultaneous interpreting. This bilingual combination worked well because the interpreters were of high quality.

The outputs of the training included knowledge and insights gained during the TOT, as well as training materials and tools which they could use in the follow-up trainings with the female election candidates (power point presentations in Arabic, the book ‘How to become a politician’ in Arabic, photos to work with, info about the WPP programme, etc), provided on a USB stick.

During the TOT, participants wrote blogs about the training. In these blogs they covered issues discussed during the training and related themes, as well as how they experienced the workshop. These blogs were published in Arabic and Dutch on the websites of Al-Amal and Hivos. English translations have been provided to DRL.

One day of this TOT was attended by a local monitor on behalf of DRL.

Parts from blogs written during the TOT in January 2014:

“As a trainee, my fears were twofold. My first fear was that the trainer would come with materials that she read without any practical experience in it. My second fear was that she would present it in a traditional way. But all these fears disappeared, when we found out that most of the examples are personal experiences, and the practical work and exercises dominated.”

Wasfi Hashem Al-Shara’a, Basra

“The last session of today included the most important methods of training, such as working groups and role plays. We did some interesting exercises to deal with the positions that women are often exposed to in meetings which are dominated by men, when for example their rights are being ignored, they are interrupted or cut off, or their opinion completely ignored.”

Wathba Abd-al-Latif Al-Tayar, Baghdad

“Today, I counted the number of participants and I found that there were 35 people present in the training hall. If we count that each of these persons has at least ten years of experience, then we have at least 350 years of experience and wonderful knowledge gathered here. If we share them during these six days of training, we will come up with new, innovative and creative ideas. Let's focus on the positive experience of everyone around us.”

Ru’a Ahmad Shawkat, Erbil

“Everything was challenged in the first day, when we discussed the concept of gender and the notions of equality, of women rights and the challenges that women face in political participation based on the idea that politics is a second interface for power and influence which is the right and competence of men. Through the SWOT analysis however, the participants themselves identified how female candidates have different challenges than male candidates. Today, we could read words on the flipcharts such as custom, traditions, and the authority of the family, which is not a challenge for a male candidate.”

Ilham Makki (one of the two trainers of trainers)

“Women in Parliament cannot always count on support from their husbands. Examples are shared, which show that husbands consider it more important to get a decent meal than that their wives are in time for a meeting, or prohibit their wives to hire a domestic help. “We have all inherited the traditional values of the past decades”, one of the participants claims, “and it is up to us to continue working on equality between men and women”. Laws can help to do so. For me as a trainer it is particularly challenging to challenge the trainers to keep the role of existing values modest when they train the 1000 women. After all, this is all about empowerment of women who have enrolled themselves for elections and who want to become a better politician by training and exchange of experiences.”

Anne Graumans (one of the two trainers of trainers)



Impressions of the TOT in Erbil. On the upper row, from left to right: (a) trainer Ilham Makki during her session about gender roles, (b) plenary sessions with the participants, (c) trainer Anne Graumans during her session about campaigning. On the lower row, from left to right: (d) working group session, (e) feedback to working group discussions, (f) IHEC representative during her session about the election process in Iraq.

Activity 1.2	Local seminars for basic skills	Planning: Jan-Feb 2014
✓ BEHIND SCHEDULE	○ ON TARGET	○ AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

In February and March 2014, 30 training workshops took place for 816 women candidates in all 18 governorates of Iraq. The seminars took place on a regional base, with different political parties and blocs in the same seminar, sometimes up to 22 parties on a total of 44 participants.⁵ The 816 women candidates who participated in these training workshops represented almost all the political parties and blocs that participate in the 2014 Parliamentary elections.

In some provinces such as Baghdad, Anbar and Ninewa, the safety situation did not allow us to conduct the training there, so it was held on an alternative, safe location. Due to these safety challenges, we trained less female candidates than planned (816 instead of 1000), in particular in Baghdad, Ninewa, Anbar and also Basra.⁶ Also, as a result, not all political parties were represented in the training workshops for candidates from these governorates. These and more challenges we met during the first stage are enlisted below.

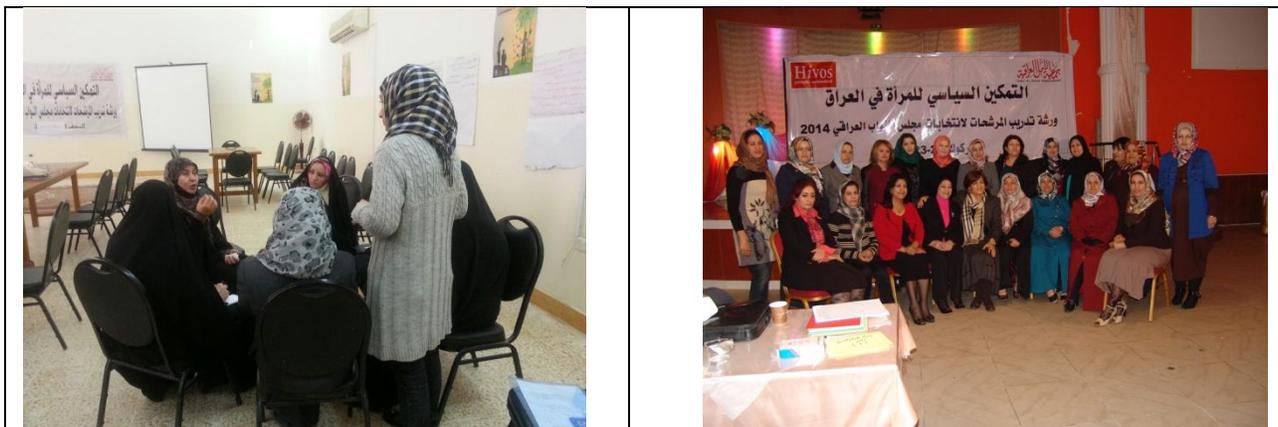
⁵ In Qadisiya on 24-25 February 2014 with 22 political parties on a total of 44 participants, as well as in Najaf on 21-22 February 2014 with 21 parties on a total of 41 participants.

⁶ In Baghdad governorate we trained 123 women out of 988 female candidates in total, in Ninewa 17 out of 135, in Basra governorate 65 out of 217.

The local training seminars for basic skills took place later than originally planned, so slightly behind schedule, but this was not alarming. The delay was related to the slight delay in the organization of the TOT, which was in turn related to the selection of local trainers and trainers of trainers.

Governorate	Population	Seminars	Particip.	Parties	Trainers
Anbar	1.6 mln	1	17	4	Wisam Al-Rawi Monaf Abdul-Latif Al-Any
Arbil	1.6 mln	1	16	8	Ru'a Ahmed Shawkat
Babil	1.8 mln	2	68	20	Salah Al-Badri Yas Khadhar Al-Ardawi
Baghdad	7.1 mln	5	123	18	Hamid Jahjih Salima Anisal Wathba Abdel-Latif Al-Tayar
Basra	2.5 mln	2	65	29	Wasfi Hashem Al-Shara'a Mohammed Ali Afluk
Dhi Qar	1.8 mln	2	63	24	Naghham Kadhum Haidar Al-'Owadi
Diyala	1.4 mln	1	27	11	Zaman Khalil Abdallah Emad
Dohuk	1.1 mln	1	13	7	Sherzad Mohammed Bir Musa
Karbala	1.1 mln	2	46	15	Thilal Fa'iq Ali Hassun
Kirkuk	1.4 mln	1	29	9	Nazaneen Anwer Mohammad
Maysan	1.0 mln	1	25	8	Saad Jabar Al-Batat
Muthanna	0.7 mln	1	17	7	Haidar Al-'Owadi
Najaf	1.3 mln	2	64	36	Naghham Kadhum
Ninewa	3.3 mln	1	17	6	Ahmed Ghalib Bajalan
Qadisiya	1.1 mln	2	74	35	Ahmed Mohammed Yas Khadhar Al-Ardawi
Salah Al-Din	1.4 mln	1	38	19	Najla' Al-Ghizali
Sulaimaniya	1.9 mln	1	26	6	Falah Muradkhan Shakaram
Wasit	1.2 mln	3	88	38	Maher Mahmud Nasir
Total		30	816		

More detailed information about the training dates and locations will be shown in one of the annexes, to be sent after May 11th.



Seminars with female election candidates in Najaf and Kirkuk.

“I could not have imagined that these workshops would have such good impact on my personality and skills. I feel more confident and encouraged. Moreover, I feel stronger than before.”

Quote from one of the trained female candidates

We were not the only ones doing the training. NDI trained Dawlat Al-Qanun, Umm Al-Yatim (Orphans' Mother - a national NGO) had a contract from UNDF to do training in Basra, Muthanna, Babil and Baghdad governorates, Al-Muwatin Bloc had contracted a private company from the United Arab Emirates with Iraqi trainers to train its candidates. These training were not often specifically for female candidates, although some political parties had their own training programmes for their female candidates, such as Dawlat Al-Qanun, Al-Muwatin Bloc, Kurdish Democratic Party and other smaller parties. Some people had more than one training. Candidates from Dawlat Al-Qanun and Al-Muwatin Bloc informed the team in Najaf, Basra and Karbala that the trainings they had received in the framework of the WPP programme were better than those they received from other institutions.

Most of the women candidates felt that their abilities had changed and they had become more confident to deal with the public (especially after the SWOT analysis). Several of the trained candidates talked to media and conducted interviews with them, to get media coverage. Also, the candidates started to become more positive about and have more trust in what civil society organizations are doing. In fact, many of the trained women requested to be involved in other workshops conducted by Al-Amal and other NGOs. Some of the candidates in our seminars had had similar training before, but claimed that ours was more useful⁷. Many of the trained election candidates continued their communications with the trainers after the training workshops were completed and asked for consultations through Facebook and mobile phone, while some other candidates visited the centres of the coordinating NGOs or the centres on Al-Amal in their provinces to ask questions or ask for consultation and increase their knowledge. That was a good indicator of the usefulness of the training.

During the implementation of the first stage of the programme, we met several challenges:

- Despite the promising start with them, the cooperation with IHEC turned out to be very limited. In January 2014 IHEC had shared a draft list of names of political parties and blocs of some governorates, with numbers and features of candidates, but not for Baghdad, Najaf, Ninewa, Maysan and Anbar. As a result, regional coordinators had to find out names of women candidates themselves. The IHEC office in Najaf refused to provide lists of candidates but allowed our team in Najaf to join the meetings they held with representatives of political parties and blocs.
- Al-Ahrar Bloc, Mutahidun Lil-Eslah, and Democratic Civil Alliance were enthusiastic to have their female candidates trained and supported, but most of the other parties and blocs did not pay attention to the idea of sending their female candidates to be trained or gave excuses (for example that the lists of candidates were not final yet or that they were so busy that they could not contact their female candidates to inform them about the workshops). As we saw this problem coming up in Baghdad we started directing messages to the representatives of political parties in the governorates. There we did succeed more to get positive response and cooperation than Baghdad. In Baghdad even the IHEC refused to give us contact information of all parties that's why we depended on our communications directly with some key political parties which are stated above some of which accepted our to cooperate while others apologized because they already have their training programs and the rest although we have of very good relations with them, yet

⁷ In particular candidates from Dawlat Al-Qanun and Al-Muwatin bloc told this to the trainers and WPP team members in Najaf, Basra and Karbala.

the women leaders working with them did not cooperate properly for competitive reason (as we think) and this challenge we did not take it into consideration. In all cases with a bad security especially in Baghdad with big other challenges in parliament and political parties which did not pay attention to women candidates trainings we believe the work was of a good standards and we could move and do something. On the positive side, it should be mentioned that some political parties had their own training programmes for their female candidates, such as Dawlat Al-Qanun, Al-Muwatin Bloc, Kurdish Democratic Party and other smaller parties.

- Some of the current female Members of Parliament were not enthusiastic to send female candidates from their own parties and blocs to our training workshops, probably to avoid serious competition from their own circles. This came as a surprise to us.
- Safety was an important challenge, as expected. In some provinces such as Baghdad, Anbar and Ninewa, the safety situation did not allow us to conduct the training there, so it was held on an alternative, safe location. Such training workshops on alternative locations costed much more than foreseen. The candidates from Anbar province were trained in Hit, far away from Ramadi, located at the border of Anbar and Salah Al-Din. The candidates from Ninewa were trained in Sahil Ninawa (not in the KRG, but under Kurdish security forces protection), far away from Mosul. On the first day of our seminar in Salah Al-Din governorate, a big explosion took place in Tikrit and the city authorities declared a curfew. Nevertheless, most of the women candidates there joined the training workshop.
- The Iraqi Parliament was broken down and exhausted because of the political conflicts between the federal government and KRG government concerning the national budget which is not approved till the moment of writing this report. In addition to other debates and conflict among the political parties and president of the Iraqi parliament in one hand and among political parties themselves in another hand and that all affected the political and electoral process in general.

Activity 1.3	Assistance during election	Planning: April 2014
O BEHIND SCHEDULE	✓ ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The training to female candidates was combined with consultation services. In almost all governorates, the women candidates continued to communicate with their trainers during and after the training workshops. The means of communication they mostly used were mobile phone, Facebook or visits to the Al-Amal centres or other NGOs which had coordinated the training workshops in their governorate. Consultations mainly concerned (a) communication with the audience and with voters, (b) negotiation skills and how to lead progressive discussion with the leaders in the parties or blocs they belong to, and (c) campaigning and meeting public. It shows the trust which the trained candidates have in the trainers. The trainers will continue to provide these consultation services to candidates until Election Day.

About 45 consultations were provided by trainers to the female candidates through mobile, Facebook or during face to face meetings with their trainers. The feedback to the consultation services was generally positive. It was felt that this kind of follow-up support increased the confidence, knowledge and skills of the women candidates to be more effective in running their campaigns and to become more influential in their own parties. The trainers will continue to provide these consultation services to candidates until Election Day.

“The trainings were very useful. But sometimes I faced things that I did not expect, so I went back to my trainer and asked for consultation. That was very useful.”

Quote from one of the trained female candidates

It was planned to facilitate such consultation services to women candidates from support units (one support unit in each governorate) based in local NGOs or in centres of Al-Amal. In practice it worked this way, but the support units had not been set up before April 1st. It had originally been planned to do that in April-May, but when the elections were set for April 30th, this would of course be pre-poned to March-April. However, because the consultations did take place in February-March, we consider this activity to be on target.

Activity 2.0	Training of trainers	Planning: orig. not planned
O BEHIND SCHEDULE	✓ ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

This extra two-day Training of Trainers took place in Erbil from 14-15 March 2014. This TOT was conducted by Ms Anne Graumans, who had also conducted the first TOT (together with an Iraqi trainer). 14 trainers participated in this TOT, selected from the larger group of 27 trainers. The preparations for phase 2 started after completing the trainings of the first phase in all Iraqi provinces. The second TOT was based on the results and experiences of the trainings in the first phase. The main topics of this advanced TOT workshop were (a) negotiation skills within political parties or political blocs in order to gain support inside the party, and (b) communication with media. The group of trainees for the second TOT was smaller (almost half of the original group) and these were the best and most dedicated trainers. In addition, it appeared that they were also more close than they were during the first TOT in January, when they first had met. Besides participating in that first TOT for six days, several of them had also worked together during the weeks between the first and the second TOT, which was a positive impuls for the atmosphere and effectiveness of the TOT. The TOT was very concrete and very fruitful.

Activity 2.1	Selection of high potentials	Planning: February 2014
✓ BEHIND SCHEDULE	O ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The selection of the 300 high potential candidates took place in March 2014, almost simultaneously with the selection of the 14 trainers for activity 2 and the preparation of the extra training of trainers in March. The selection process was slightly behind schedule, but not alarming. It could not have been done earlier, because the lion's share of the first stage had to be realized first.

The selecting the 300 high potential candidates was based on the following criteria:

- Women candidates in the big political blocs who are expected to win in the elections;
- Women candidates who were active and dedicated during the training workshops;
- Women candidates with a strong desire / eagerness to participate in the advanced trainings;
- Women candidates who have leadership roles in the institutions where they work.

In total, more than 300 candidates were selected and invited for training workshops (see 2.3).

Activity 2.2	Support to trainers	Planning: March 2014
O BEHIND SCHEDULE	✓ ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The most important and substantial support which the 14 trainers received was the extra TOT in March (see 2.0), right before they would start with training and supporting the 'high potential' candidates. In addition, they received support upon request from the WPP staff, which often happened informal, in between things, and actually ongoing.

Activity 2.3	Training/networking sessions	Planning: March 2014
O BEHIND SCHEDULE	✓ ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The training workshops in the second stage started soon after the extra TOT (14-15 March) and continued in April. In March, 11 workshops were held in 10 governorates, in which 246 'high potential' candidates were trained. The remaining workshops will be held in April. A detailed overview will be shown in one of the annexes which we will send after May 11th.

Activity 2.4	Support to high potentials	Planning: March 2014
O BEHIND SCHEDULE	✓ ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Besides training to 246 'high potential' candidates in 10 governorates (until March 31st), the 14 trainers provided practical support and advises as well. Special support units had not been set up, but the advises and support mainly took place by telephone and face-to face.

Activity 3.5	Exchange visit Dutch MPs	Planning: November 2014
O BEHIND SCHEDULE	O ON TARGET	✓ AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The first preparations for the exchange visit of Dutch MPs to Iraq started in February 2014. The exchange visit was initially scheduled for November 2014, but we agreed to have the exchange visit a few months earlier, in August 2014. So, with this activity we are ahead of schedule. Also instead of everyone going to Erbil, we agreed to have the exchange in Iraqi Parliament in Baghdad.

The reasons for changing the time planning and location are as follows. The calendars of both the Dutch and the Iraqi MPs seem to indicate that late August would be a more convenient time for the exchange than November. The Dutch Parliament will continue its sessions after Summer break on September 1st⁸, soon followed by the "Troonrede" (the Dutch version of the State of the Union) and presentation of the state budget 2015 in Mid-September, with debates about the state budget in the following weeks. The last week of August seems the most convenient time for Dutch MPs to travel abroad. In Iraq, the fasting month of Ramadan will take place from 28 June – 28 July 2014, followed by three days of Eid Al-Fitr. The exchange would not be fruitful during that period, but afterwards seems fine. Between Ceasefire Day (commemorating the end of Iran-Iraq War) on August 8th and National Day on October 3rd / Eid Al-Adha on October 4th there is no special event in Iraq. The Iraqi Parliament will be available in the last week of August 2014.

The reason for having the exchange in Baghdad instead of Erbil is connected to a variety of factors. First of all, in general, an exchange with the Iraqi national Parliament should preferably take place in the Parliamentary premises in Baghdad, not in Erbil. Secondly, this would be a great way to organize cost sharing by the Iraqi Parliament or government, as they could take care of the security measures (in particular between the airport and the Green Zone). Thirdly, having the exchange in Baghdad instead of having everyone travelling to Erbil is less expensive and time-consuming. Fourthly, the foundations and international secretariats of three Dutch political parties involved in this programme (Liberal Party VVD, Labour Party PvdA, and Christian Democratic Party CDA) are more enthusiastic about Baghdad and see a high media coverage potential in it. They in turn have convinced MPs from their parties to go to Baghdad. Because both Hivos and Al-Amal consider it realistic to have the exchange in Baghdad, also after a check with the Iraqi Parliament, it was decided to go for it.

⁸ Summer break of the Dutch Parliament will run from 5 July – 31 August 2014. The "Troonrede" (the Dutch version of the State of the Union, prepared by the cabinet of ministers and read by the king) and state budget 2015 will be presented on September 16th.

Activity 4.1	Work with Iraqi political parties	Planning: Dec-Mar 2014
<input type="radio"/> BEHIND SCHEDULE	<input checked="" type="radio"/> ON TARGET	<input type="radio"/> AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Besides the initial informative meetings with a number of political parties in December 2013, the discussion and educational meetings with political parties and blocs mainly took place in March and continued in April. In almost all governorates, the WPP team established working relations with a wide variety of political parties and blocs. This was often necessary to get the names of female candidates on their party lists, but it developed in a positive way and gradually during the project most political parties gained more confidence in the WPP programme. The best working relations were with Al-Ahrar Bloc, Mutahidun Lil-Eslah, and the Democratic Civil Alliance, which were enthusiastic to have their female candidates trained and supported. The relations with Dawlat Al-Qanun, Al-Muwatin Bloc, Kurdish Democratic Party were good too, but they had their own training programmes for their female candidates, so they had the feeling that they did not need the WPP programme.

The meetings with political parties focused on the electoral process and on preparations for the election campaigns, in which we emphasized the importance to support women's participation in the political process and to empower women candidates and how this would impact positively on parties.

One of the annexes which we will send after May 11th will contain a list of political parties throughout Iraq which are involved in the WPP programme.

Activity 4.1	Work with electoral commiss.	Planning: Dec-Mar 2014
<input type="radio"/> BEHIND SCHEDULE	<input checked="" type="radio"/> ON TARGET	<input type="radio"/> AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The cooperation with the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) turned out to be a disappointment, at least on the federal level in Baghdad. The cooperation with IHEC in the regions was more fruitful.

Among many things, IHEC was responsible for checking and approving the proposed candidates and publishing the final candidates' list. Al-Amal had a primary meeting with IHEC representatives in December, who welcomed the idea of the WPP programme and said they were willing to cooperate. Despite this promising start with them, the cooperation with IHEC turned out to be very limited. IHEC did not make the final candidates list public until March 31st (and even afterwards it continued to change). This list was necessary to know for sure how many and which women were on the candidates list. In January 2014 IHEC had shared a draft list of candidates of political parties and blocs of some governorates with Al-Amal (just numbers and features, no names), but not for Baghdad, Najaf, Ninewa, Maysan and Anbar governorates. As a result, regional coordinators of the WPP programme had to find out the names of women candidates themselves, mostly via the political parties and blocs, and sometimes via the local offices of IHEC in the regions. In general, the IHEC staff in the regions was slightly more cooperative. The IHEC office in Najaf for example refused to provide lists of candidates but allowed our team in Najaf to join the meetings which IHEC held with representatives of political parties and blocs. That was helpful.

In addition, a representative of IHEC Erbil delivered a presentation at the TOT in January about the election system and procedures in Iraq. It was a very technical, but useful presentation, which the trainers used when they trained and consulted female election candidates throughout the country.

Activity 4.3	Training potentials re parties	Planning: March 2014
<input type="radio"/> BEHIND SCHEDULE	<input checked="" type="radio"/> ON TARGET	<input type="radio"/> AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The training and support to the 'high potential' candidates focused on their self confidence and their election campaigns, and less on the influence they may have in their own circles, i.e. the political parties they represent. It was not ignored, but not explicitly covered either.

Activity 5.1	Regional stakeholder meetings	Planning: December 2013
✓ BEHIND SCHEDULE	O ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The stakeholder meetings at regional level to mobilize partners and gain support from community leaders, parties, candidates, state officials and media took place in April 2014. The first one was held in Najaf, seven more were held since then. These were large meetings, with up to 150 or even almost 200 participants.

The stakeholder meetings were planned earlier, so the realization of this activity is behind schedule. The reason is that it was felt that priority needed to be given to the other activities which were urgent, in particular the training of trainers and the training of and support to female candidates.

Activity 5.2	Local community meetings	Planning: Feb-Mar 2014
✓ BEHIND SCHEDULE	O ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The local community meetings have not been organized, because we decided to give priority to the training of and support to female election candidates. The time pressure to get this organized in such a short time was a challenge, whereas organizing the local community meetings would increase the time pressure too much.

Activity 5.3	Meetings with journalists	Planning: December 2013
✓ BEHIND SCHEDULE	O ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The WPP team has been coordinating and communicating with media workers and journalists in various governorates to sensitize them about the importance of covering and promoting women candidates. The seminars in the framework of the WPP programme were often good opportunities for the media to meet and interview female candidates. Both state and private TV and radio channels, as well as printed newspapers and magazines, covered the training sessions and interviewed some women candidates who were participating in the training workshops.

In addition, after the training workshops, several trained women candidates had meetings with audiences, conducted press conferences and did radio interviews in all Iraqi provinces. The interviews and other media coverage helps these women candidates to practice the trainings they received and be in direct contact with audiences through media channels. It is also believed to give the women candidates more confidence in confronting public audience and break the ice between them and the camera, so they become more and more self confident. Some candidates did not do interviews and seek media coverage, claiming that their party or bloc did not allow them to do that. For some of them that created frustration. This issue was discussed in the training workshops.

The collection of positive stories showing women's contributions has started in April. There are many inspiring examples of positive contributions from women in Iraq.

Links and videos will be included in the annexes, to be sent after May 11th. Also an overview of the media, which are involved in the WPP programme, will be sent as annex.

Activity 5.4	Workshop with journalists	Planning: March 2014
✓ BEHIND SCHEDULE	O ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

The first training workshop for journalists and media workers took place in Mid-April 2014. In total 16 media workers from 7 provinces participated. The workshop was planned to take place in March, but had a slight delay, because the priority was given to the capacity development of the female candidates. More

information will be provided in the next report. The main reasons why this workshop was behind schedule (planned in March, realized in April) were first of all security reasons and secondly logistics reasons.

Activity 6.1	Regular monitoring	Planning: Ongoing
O BEHIND SCHEDULE	✓ ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Monitoring has been taking place throughout the programme. In this context Hivos and Al-Amal have frequent contact through e-mail, Skype and telephone, and also in face-to-face meetings from time to time. Communication between Hivos and Al-Amal is usually on a daily basis, sometimes more times a day. Skype and telephone calls normally last for 1 - 2 hours. The communication between Hivos and Al-Amal includes all aspects of the programme implementation.

The WPP team monitored the activities of the Regional Coordinators and the trainers through (1) regular field visits and attending training sessions in Baghdad, Erbil, Ninewa, Wasit, Maysan, Basra, Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Diwaniya and Najaf, (2) reading reports sent by the Regional and National Coordinators, (3) regular communications, by telephone and e-mails, with the coordinators and trainers. In addition, in March, before phase 2 started, the WPP team held a meeting to evaluate the trainers' performance and programme management, as well as the training needs of the female candidates, and to assess whether there were additional needs which were not reflected in the previous reports submitted by trainers and coordinators. This meeting was conducted in Erbil and it lasted three hours. The evaluation was discussed with the trainers twice via Skype. It formed the basis for the second Training of Trainers in March.

Activity 6.2	Planning & monitoring visits	Planning: February 2014
O BEHIND SCHEDULE	✓ ON TARGET	O AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

Hivos conducted one monitoring visit to Iraq in the past quarter. That was a visit by International Programme Manager Marcel van der Heijden in January 2014, combined with attendance in the TOT. An illness prevented him from visiting Iraq again in March. The WPP team in Iraq conducted regular field visits and attended training sessions in Baghdad, Arbil, Ninewa, Wasit, Maysan, Basra, Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Diwaniya and Najaf.

Hivos did have visa to Iraq for the past quarter, but obtaining the required visa did not go as planned. Hivos and Al-Amal had applied for a multiple entry visa (six months duration) for federal Iraq for Marcel van der Heijden, but after an assessment period of several months the authorities in Baghdad approved a three-month multiple entry visa only, which expired on April 9th. The-time consuming visa application process was started again in April.

From 28-30 January 2014, a delegation of DRL paid a site visit to Hivos in The Hague. During this visit, the WPP programme was discussed in detail with Ms Mary "Polly" Anderson, Programme Officer. It was a very useful visit for both sides. DRL sent its conclusions and recommendations to Hivos on April 11th.

Results of the programme during past 3 months

The main **outputs** of the WPP programme in the period January-March 2014:

1. 816 female aspirants have received basic skills training, support and encouragement (the planning had been 1000 female candidates)
 - 1.1 Training of trainers (January): 1 TOT of 6 days with 27 trainers from all 18 governorates
 - 1.2 Local seminars for basic skills (February-March): 30 training workshops with 816 women candidates in all 18 governorates of Iraq
 - 1.3 Assistance during election (February-March): 45 consultations to female candidates (support units not set up)

- 2. 246 high potential female aspirants and candidates have received intense capacity building and support, connected with civil society at grassroots (the planning had been 300, but it will expectedly be more than 300 in the end)(they are not yet organized in a solidarity network)
- 2.0 Training of trainers (March): 1 TOT of 2 days with 14 trainers from 12 governorates
- 2.1 Selection of high potentials (March): more than 300 candidates selected from all 18 governorates
- 2.2 Support to trainers (March): 1 TOT (see 2.0) plus ongoing support from WPP team
- 2.3 Advanced trainings and networking sessions for high potentials (March): 11 workshops in 10 governorates with 246 high potential candidates (this activity continued in April)
- 2.4 Practical support to high potentials (March): consultations and help to high potential female candidates (support units not set up)
- 4. At least 15 political parties and coalitions received information and support on engaging women
- 4.1 Discussion and educational meetings (March): Some 20 meetings have taken place.
- 5. Female voters have received balanced and non-biased information about the contribution of women political leaders to the democratic development of the country: thousands of voters
- 5.3 Engaging and informing influential media and journalists (February-March): several dozens of meetings and encounters took place.

Some outputs were mentioned in the report above, but started in April, so they cannot be considered as outputs achieved in the reporting period.

- 4.3 Training and engagement of high potentials in influencing parties (April)
- 5.1 Stakeholder conferences to mobilize, gain support, awareness, for community leaders, parties, candidates, media (April)
- 5.4 Workshop with journalists and media professionals (April)

In addition, concerning the exchange visit of Dutch MPs to Iraq: this visit was originally scheduled for November 2014, but postponed to August. We started the preparations for this exchange visit started in February 2014.

- 3.5 Visit and exchange workshop from parliamentarians from the Netherlands (prep February)
- 4.2 Exchange with Dutch political parties (prep February)

It is much more difficult to claim concrete results in terms of **outcomes**, mostly because it is too early to do so, but some steps in the aimed direction have certainly been made. One outcome can be claimed, albeit with some caution.

- A. We have capacitated 816 female candidates (and 246 of them more intensively) to become skilled and confident candidates, and many of them seemed ready for it, but practice needs to show whether they are sufficiently skilled and confident. The election campaign in April may bring some good examples, as well as the experiences trained women who will be elected MPs.
- B. Outcome B (female representatives will be more effective leaders who can promote a legislative agenda, supportive of women's rights, and engage in grassroots outreach) is based on the all the capacity building and support activities in the first stages before the elections, but it is mostly directly related to the work focused on female elected representatives in the stage after the elections.
- C. It is also too early to claim that political parties and coalitions show more gender sensitivity by including more women in leadership positions. We did some message work at the leadership of various parties to make them more gender sensitive and to encourage them to give space to capable critical women from their own circles beyond the level of the obligatory quota, but the eventual selection of representatives to take a seat in Parliament on their behalf will show how gender sensitive and supportive they really are. The weeks and months right after the elections will show this.

- D. Indeed, media gave more attention to female candidates and their positive contribution to politics than they would normally do, thanks to our training workshops (which raised media attention) and assistance to get female candidates in front of the microphones and in the spotlights. This is a concrete outcome related to our work, but is difficult to provide evidence for it. After all, how do we know how much media attention these candidates would have gained without our help?

Scope of Work:

Outcomes:

A. Female aspirants are skilled and confident candidates. The outputs leading to this outcome are 1 (capacity building of and support to female aspirants) and 2 (focus on high potentials).

B. Female representatives will be more effective leaders who can promote a legislative agenda, supportive of women's rights, and engage in grassroots outreach. This outcome is reached through all the capacity building and support activities (outputs 1, 2 and 3) since the elected women have gone through earlier steps, but it is mostly directly related to output 3 (focus on representatives).

C. Political parties show more gender sensitivity by including more women in leadership positions. Output 4 (influencing party leadership) leads to this outcome.

D. Media has more attention for female candidates and their positive contribution to politics. The activities leading to this outcome are all described under output 5, esp. 5.3 and 5.4.

Outputs:

1: Approximately 1000 female aspirants have received basic skills training, support and encouragement: 816

1.1 Training of trainers (January)

1.2 Local seminars for basic skills (February-March)

1.3 Assistance during election (February-March)(not support unit)

2: Approximately 300 high potential female aspirants and candidates have received intense capacity building and support, are organized in a solidarity network, and connected with civil society at grassroots: more than 300

2.0 Training of trainers (March)

2.1 Selection of high potentials (March)

2.2 Support to trainers (March-April)

2.3 Advanced trainings and networking sessions for high potentials (March-April)

2.4 Practical support to high potentials (March-April)

3: All elected female representatives have received long-term support and assistance

3.1 Training of trainers: follow up workshop

3.2 Continuous support to female MPs and institutions

3.3 Advanced training workshops to elected MPs in Baghdad

3.4 Advanced training workshops to elected MPs in Erbil

3.5 Visit and exchange workshop from parliamentarians from the Netherlands (planned for August, preparations started in February)

3.6 Meetings to create more support from civil society

4: At least 15 political parties and coalitions received information and support on engaging women

4.1 Discussion and educational meetings

4.2 Exchange with Dutch political parties (planned for August, preparations started in February)

4.3 Training and engagement of high potentials in influencing parties⁹

5: Female voters have received balanced and non-biased information about the contribution of women political leaders to the democratic development of the country

5.1 One day stakeholder conferences, four regions, to mobilize, gain support, awareness, for community leaders, parties, candidates, media (April)¹⁰

5.2 Local community meetings for direct awareness raising

5.3 Engaging and informing influential media and journalists (February-March)

5.4 Workshop with journalists and media professionals (April)¹¹

Steps toward realizing the overall goals/objectives during past 3 months

We have set essential preparatory steps toward the two overall goals of the WPP programme, and the past three months were in fact among the most crucial ones in the whole programme, but time will show how successful our efforts so far have been. The elections and the weeks after, when the parties will invite candidates to represent them in Parliament, will be an important test case. That process will be beyond our control. After the elections, we will continue to support female Members of Parliament. The weeks and months after the elections will show whether more women will be in leadership positions in parliament and government.

⁹ In April, so not in reporting period Jan-Mar 2014

¹⁰ In April, so not in reporting period Jan-Mar 2014.

¹¹ In April, so not in the reporting period Jan-Mar 2014.

The second overall goal (legislation that is supportive of women's rights in Iraq) is actually quite challenging in the current political context. The Jaafari Law for example was proposed by the government, then withdrawn, but it can still come back on the political agenda, for example when political parties start the post-election negotiations to form a cabinet of ministers. In that circumstance, more female leaders, especially more effective gender-sensitive leaders, are needed to develop and promote genuine women-friendly legislation. In that sense it is rather worrisome that the Jaafari Law was not a big theme during the 2014 elections campaigns.

Overall goals:

1. Compared to the current situation, more women will be in leadership positions in parliament and government. Various activities contribute to the achievement of this goal: capacity building of and support to candidates and elected representatives, including support to institutional structures within parliament, (output 1, 2 and 3) and influencing party leadership (output 4).
2. Legislation that is supportive of women's rights. More female leaders, but especially more effective leaders, supported by an enabling institutional structure, will be more capable to develop and promote and women friendly legislation. Outputs 1 – 4 contribute to the achievement of this goal.

F Framework Indicators

The past quarter showed the following data concerning the evaluation indicators from the Foreign Assistance Framework:

F Framework Indicators	Q1 2014	Cumulative
2 Governing Justly & Democratically		
2.2 Good Governance Indicator 2.2 -3: number of activities supported with USG assistance that are designed to retain women or recruit women into positions within the national or local government	123 ¹²	131
2.3.2 Elections and Political Processes Indicator 2.3.2 -12: number of individuals receiving voter and civic education through USG-assisted programs	10,000 ¹³	10,000
2.3.3 Political Parties Indicator 2.3.3 -6: number of USG-assisted political parties implementing initiatives to increase the number of candidates and/or members who are women, youth and from marginalized groups.	15 ¹⁴	20
2.4.2 Media Freedom and Freedom of Information 2.4.2 -12: number of training days provided to journalists with USG Assistance (measured by person-days of training)	0	0
Gender		
GNDR-3: proportion of females who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG supported training/programming	0	0
GNDR-3: proportion of target population reporting increased agreement with the concept that males and females should have equal access to social, economic, and political opportunities	- ¹⁵	-

¹² Calculation: activity cluster 1: 76 activities in period Jan-Mar 2014, cluster 2: 22 activities, cluster 3: 0 activities, cluster 4: 15 activities, cluster 5: 10 activities, total: 123 activities.

¹³ The 816 candidates supported from the WPP programme plus the audience of publications/broadcasts in media on these topics (roughly estimated figure).

¹⁴ None of the political parties received financial support from the WPP programme.

¹⁵ No reliable information about this available in this stage.

Lessons learned during past 3 months

A flexible approach to avoid safety risks works well. For the candidates from Baghdad, Anbar and Ninewa governorates, it was good to have the training on an alternative, safe location. The candidates from Salah Al-Din and Babil faced bomb explosions during our training workshops, but no one was hurt. We learned that we should continue this flexible approach.

The way how we have attracted media attention for female candidates, who were trained and assisted by the WPP trainers, works well. There was positive media attention for these candidates, which is very useful during election campaigns. However, we learned that not all candidates wanted or were allowed to have media attention. We consider this very strange, because we are convinced that running an election campaign is about reaching out to potential voters, and positive media coverage is extremely helpful for that outreach.

Women's empowerment, women's rights or women-friendly legislation in Iraq were not major campaign themes, whereas the government had just recently withdrawn the Jaafari Law without actually rejecting it (thus keeping this card in their sleeves for future negotiations). We observe that female candidates could not influence the elections campaigns toward promoting women-friendly legislation. Female candidates did not really use the sexual harassment of election posters for this purpose (or to their own benefit) either. We learned that male dominated political debate in Iraq is indeed not easy to influence towards improvement of the position of women.

We learned that most political parties and coalitions are not easily convinced to go beyond the obligatory 25% quota for women. In words some of them do, but the weeks after the elections will show their true colours.

The dependence on IHEC was frustrating since the names of candidates were not available throughout the past three months. As a result, alternative channels were needed to get the names of female candidates in order to invite them to be involved in the WPP programme. We had these alternative channels (political parties, local IHEC staff, NGOs), but it was much more time-consuming. IHEC had the required information available, but did not want to share it, despite their earlier positive signals and support for our programme. We learned that having alternative channels available (which we had) is a precondition for being able to implement the programme.

Problems/challenges in implementing the programme and corrective actions

First of all, the **safety situation** was an important challenge, as expected. In some provinces such as Baghdad, Anbar and Ninewa, the safety situation did not allow us to conduct the training there, so it was held on an alternative, safe location. Such training workshops on alternative locations costed much more than foreseen. The candidates from Anbar province were trained in Hit, far away from Ramadi, located at the border of Anbar and Salah Al-Din. The candidates from Ninewa were trained in Sahil Ninawa (not in the KRG, but under Kurdish security forces protection), far away from Mosul. On the first day of our seminar in Salah Al-Din governorate, a big explosion took place in Tikrit and the city authorities declared a curfew. Nevertheless, most of the women candidates there joined the training workshop.

Despite the promising start with them, the **cooperation with the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC)** turned out to be a challenge, at least on the federal level in Baghdad, as they did not share the names of female candidates, just numbers and the corresponding parties and governorates. The regional coordinators of the WPP programme had to identify female candidates themselves, which they mostly did via the political parties and via NGOs, as well as via IHEC representatives in the regions. The cooperation with IHEC in the regions was more fruitful, but still to a limited extent. The IHEC office in Najaf for example refused to provide lists of candidates but allowed the WPP team in Najaf to join the meetings which they held with representatives of political parties and blocs.

The **serious involvement of the political parties and coalitions** was a challenge. Some parties reacted enthusiastic about training and supporting female candidates from their parties (in particular Al-Ahrar Bloc, Mutahidun Lil-Eslah, and Democratic Civil Alliance), but the question is how serious they are in give space to strong and critical women from their own circles. Much depends on the willingness of the leadership of political parties and blocs, who are almost without exception men. For that reason, we have worked with political parties to do some "massage" work for the benefit of political participation of qualified women beyond the level of the obligatory 25% quota for women. The days after the election will show the results of these efforts. On the positive side, it should be mentioned that some political parties had their own

training programmes for their female candidates, such as Dawlat Al-Qanun, Al-Muwatin Bloc, Kurdish Democratic Party and other smaller parties.

An slightly unexpected challenge was that some of the female Members of Parliament who were also running for elections to be re-elected, were not enthusiastic to support other female candidates from their own parties and blocs, probably to avoid serious competition from their own circles.

The extremely **high time pressure** to get everything organized in time was a challenge. The programme started with a slight delay (selection of the trainers), which had its effects on the activities that followed.

We continued to do what needed to be done.

Proposed revisions which require prior approval

None.

Proposed revisions which do not require prior approval

None.

Internal reviews during past 3 months

Internal reviews that have been made to monitor the WPP programme in the past 3 months, included reports of visits to Iraq in January 2014, as well as the internal evaluations of the two training of trainers in January and March 2014.

Visibility of the backdonor during past 3 months

During TOT Jan - slightly

Evaluation work during past 3 months

The past quarter was too early for preparations or implementation of the Mid Term Evaluation and End of Term Evaluation.

Documentation during past 3 months

The documentation of the WPP programme realization during the reporting period includes power point presentations, minutes/travel reports, internal evaluation sheets and photos. The available documentation of the considerations and decision making process concerning major decisions in the framework of this programme relate to the recruitment of staff, the relation between Hivos and Al-Amal, the purchase of the laptops, the selection of the trainers of trainers, and the selection of the local trainers. They are kept at Hivos and Al-Amal. This also applies to the documentation about the travel arrangements, accommodations, selection of the venues for workshops and training, as well as bids of and negotiations with interpreting company, that were taken care of by an event organizer.