

People in Need in Iraq – January/February 2007



People in Need

People in Need (PIN) is a Czech non-profit, non-governmental organization whose mission statement is to inspire a largeness of spirit in Czech society and around the world by helping others in need and by promoting democratic freedoms for all. PIN is a major advocate of democratic inclusion both in the Czech Republic and abroad, and in its 15 years of existence, has worked in 37 countries worldwide.

PIN came to Iraq in April 2003 and set up its main office in Al Amarah, Missan Province. PIN has carried out reconstruction works in educational and health sector facilities. PIN has also implemented projects in water and sanitation and health sectors. From the beginning of its presence in Iraq, PIN has been carrying out activities in capacity building of the Iraqi civil society. One of the goals of these activities is to share the Czech and Eastern European experience of the transition to democracy with Iraqi citizens.

Special mention for film about Iraq on PIN One World Film Festival

From February 28 to March 8, 2007, PIN held in Prague, Czech Republic the ninth edition of the One World International Documentary Film Festival. In keeping with tradition, the festival was organized under the auspices of Václav Havel. This year the festival featured 123 documentaries from 34 countries all around the world.



The jury offered special mention to the exceptionally skilfully short documentary *Sari's Mother*, which with respect and empathy illustrates the desperate personal drama of a mother – a victim of the invisible war in Iraq. Because of the war and its destructive effect on the Iraqi infrastructure medical care which is a matter of life or death is unavailable for Sari.

Lear more about One World film festival at <http://www.oneworld.cz>

Capacity Building of Civil Society/Media/Local Governance Sector

Project - Empowering CSOs to Bridge Government and Citizens in Southern Iraq [funded by NED]

The overall objective of the project is to support the democratic process in Iraq through improving dialogue between citizens and local government. The specific objectives include empowering local CSOs to become a link between citizens and government, and encouraging citizens to play a larger role in the discussion of local issues. Nine CSOs will be selected in the governorates in the South of Iraq, trained and awarded with small grants in order to work as facilitators in communication and cooperation between Iraqi citizens and the local government.

PIN has concluded the survey among representatives of local authorities in governorates of Missan, Basrah and Thi Qar. The survey focused on attitudes of local governance representatives towards CSOs and level of current citizen cooperation. Outcomes of the survey will be used for drafting materials used for training of the CSOs on community facilitation. Following the survey PIN launched the selection process of CSOs from Missan, Basrah and Thi Qar which will participate in the project.

Upcoming

Project - Community Conversations: Empowering CSO to bridge government and citizens in southern Iraq

[funded by UNDEF, executing agency UNOPS]

The project is planned to begin in April 2007. In this project, PIN will draw from Central and Eastern European experience in transition from communism to democracy. PIN will select a group of thirteen CSOs in the south of Iraq from Basra, Missan and Thi-Qar governorates. The CSOs will work with PIN and Czech trainers specialised in civic education to develop a public meeting format that will be culturally acceptable in the south of Iraq and will put both members of the public and elected officials at ease. The CSOs will select the topics of the meetings, learn facilitation skills, learn how to navigate local government in order to address specific topics and learn how to encourage public participation on concrete issues. The CSOs will conduct community meetings to address local concerns. PIN will organise seminars to examine the role of CSOs in community facilitation for both CSOs and local government representatives, and a conference in the south of Iraq to examine the importance of CSO/ local government cooperation.

Project - Support for civic initiatives, local government and their cooperation in Iraq *[funded by MFA]*

The implementation of the project will begin in April 2007. It aims at supporting civic initiatives, development of civil society and democratisation process in Iraq. The activities will focus on the Lower South region in Iraq they will build on the previous MFA funded project on support for transformation to democracy and development of Iraqi civil society.

The project will include the following components:

- capacity building of local governance representatives carried out through training in Jordan and workshops and seminars organised in Iraq;
- workshops in Iraq and microgrants for Iraqi CSO promoting coalition building and networking among them;
- further development of the website: www.ngo-iraq.org

Training for Female Members of Iraqi Provincial Councils *[funded by UNIFEM]*

The training initially scheduled for March was postponed for May. It will be addressed to 25 female members of provincial councils from 12 Iraqi governorates. The training will take place in Amman and it will be run by 2 Czech trainers. The curriculum of the training will focus on gender issues, negotiation and management skills. PIN is currently carrying out the selection of the training participants.

Income Generation Sector

Income Generation project for Women in Missan – sewing courses *[funded by IOM]*



PIN employee is explaining the project to beneficiaries

The project began on March 1, 2007. The implementation period is 3 months. The activities will include training in tailoring skills for 75 socially disadvantaged women from Missan governorate, from: Al Mejar Al Kabeer district, Al Maimouna district, Al Kahla district, Al Musharah sub-district, Al Salam sub-district. The training will enable them to produce marketable items and generate income for their families. Direct beneficiaries of the project will come from IDPs, returnees, as well as from host communities. The project will contribute the improvement of the labour and income generation situation among the IDP/returnee families as well as general population of the Missan governorate. It will also provide women participants with in-kind income generation grants - sewing machines.

Completed Projects

Civil Society Capacity Building/Media/Local Government *[projects were funded by MFA and NED]*

- ✓ *Management Workbook for Iraqi Civic Sector Organizations* published in English and Arabic to be used as a study material during PIN trainings and workshops
- ✓ Website for Iraqi NGOs launched in 2006
- ✓ 90 representatives of Iraqi NGOs trained in 7 basic NGO management trainings. Trainings were held in Amman and lasted two or three weeks each. Two trainings were organised in 2004 and four in 2005.
- ✓ 25 representatives of the Iraqi local government trained in LG and Management Skills in 2006.
- ✓ 13 representatives of Iraqi NGOs trained in 2005 and 2006 in a two-part Training of Trainers.
- ✓ 14 representatives of Iraqi NGOs trained in advanced management two-week training in 2006.
- ✓ 48 micro-grants awarded and implemented by Iraqi NGOs in 2005 and 2006 under the guidance of PIN staff in Amarah.
- ✓ 10 youth centres in Missan awarded with micro-grants to organize activities and provided with library equipment in 2005.
- ✓ 2 computer/internet centers established in Amara in 2005, maintained and handed over to the MoE.
- ✓ 28 journalists trained in 2 basic trainings followed by 4 month mentorship/scholarship period in 2005; 469 articles published in the Iraqi press by the journalist trainees during the mentorship period; 12 journalists trained in advanced two-week training in 2006.
- ✓ 4 experienced NGO workers from Eastern Europe sent to Missan in March 2004 to mentor emerging Iraqi NGOs.

Health sector *[projects were funded by CZ, IOM, CPA and UNHCR]*

- ✓ Training of Birth Attendants in the Marshlands (3 sessions)
- ✓ Avian Influenza Prevention Project for Missan
- ✓ Mobile Medical Teams project in rural Marshlands.
- ✓ Health awareness programs in rural Marshlands.
- ✓ Health Preventive Examinations in 150 Schools in Marshlands.
- ✓ Rehabilitation of 54 PHCs and hospitals in Missan.
- ✓ Distribution of medical supplies.

Education sector *[projects were funded by CZ, IOM, CPA and CIMIC]*

- ✓ Rehabilitated 47 primary schools, a female dorm in University of Basra, a kindergarten and 9 youth centres in Missan.
- ✓ 10 elementary schools in Amarah provided with library furniture in 2006

Wat/San sector

- ✓ In cooperation with Arche noVa, German NGO, PIN introduced Household Potable Water System for Marshlands and provided 100 Mercana Filters. The project was funded by IOM. Arche noVa is owner of the Mercana Filters copyright.
- ✓ Rehabilitation of 2 Main Water Treatment Units in marshlands in Missan.
- ✓ Rehabilitation of sewage disposal system in two IDP inhabited quarters of Amarah, Missan. Funded by IOM.

Distribution of NFI *[projects were funded by IOM]*

- ✓ Winterisation programme - distribution of NFI to 4000 IDPs families in the marshland.
- ✓ Distribution of NFI to Flood Victims in the marshland.

Other projects

- ✓ IDP Household Intentions Survey for Missan. Funded by IOM.
- ✓ Rehabilitation of 4 fire stations and Central Medical Laboratory in Missan.
- ✓ Mosquito project - spraying campaign, 15,000 mosquito nets locally produced and distributed. Funded by UNHCR.

Acronyms

BA CIMIC - Civil - Military Cooperation
CZ - Czech Government, Public collection
CPA - Coalition Provisional Authority
DFID - Department for International Development

IOM - International Organization for Migration
NED - National Endowment for Democracy
MFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
UNDEF – United Nations Democracy Fund
UNHCR -United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIFEM - United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNOPS – United Nations Office for Project Services

PIN Iraq facts

Location : Al Amarah, Missan, Lower South
HQ : Prague, Czech Republic
Mission established : April 2003
Actual state : Remote Management – Amman, Jordan
Main sectors : Capacity Building of CSOs, Local Governance, Media, Health

For more information please contact us:

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Team leaving the mission at the end of March 2007:

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New team taking over in March:

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PIN is a member of Alliance 2015:

Available on our website:

PIN 'Management Workbook for Iraqi Civic Sector Organisations' (in Arabic): <http://www.peopleinneed.cz/download/pdf/49.pdf>

PIN Annual Report 2005: http://www.peopleinneed.cz/download/PIN_2005-EN_web.pdf

PIN Iraq Mission Activities Updates: <http://www.clovekvtsni.cz/index2en.php?parent=402&sid=402&id=468>

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