



Background Paper:

In the perspectives of the reconstruction of Iraq, the UN agencies have been working on building the capacities of the GoI to reform and rule the country according to internationally recognised best practices, international commitments to human rights and good governance principles. In this context, UNDP has launched the “Support to the Development of Justice and Rule of Law” project.

One component of this programme focuses on “Strengthening the Capacity of Government of Iraq to Reform and Manage Prisons and Juvenile Pre and Post Trial Detention Facilities in Line with International Standards” and is being implemented by a consortium that is composed of DMI a consultancy company specializing in Justice and penitentiary reform (DMI) and of the Arab Centre for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity (ACRLI), a research centre specialized in the development and the reinforcement of the rule of law in Arab countries.

This component will support the enhanced delivery of the services provided by the Iraqi penitentiary system through technical advice and training based on UN and other internationally recognised best practices and transfer of know how.

Result targeting institutional capacity building and strengthening are expected in four main areas:

- Support in bringing the legal framework of prisons and detention closer to international norms and standards
- Support to improve the pre and post trial detention modalities, in particular of juvenile and vulnerable groups, based on international best practices.
- Support to develop a coherent and adapted human resource system, with development/upgrading of the skills and competencies required from the penitentiary staff in order to allow improved management of prisons within the Rule of Law framework
- Support to develop and structure cooperation between penitentiary authorities and civil society, and in particular interventions of civil society in prisons, in order to enhance the overall democratic and humane management of prisons.

In order to pursue its Overall Objective of support to the reform and up grading of the Iraqi penitentiary system, and to facilitate the involvement of the relevant

stakeholders, the project intends to organize a high level seminar in Beirut with the following purpose:

- open channels of communications with the relevant beneficiaries in order for the project to take full account of their needs and be truly participative and demand driven
- structure cooperation channels and access to relevant information so as to allow efficient implementation of the project, in particular in preparing and facilitating an accurate mapping and assessment of the penitentiary facilities targeted by the project
- support and strengthen cooperation mechanisms between the many stakeholders of the reform/build up of penitentiary administration in view of the on-going transfer of authority process