

Terms of Reference

National Integrity System (NIS) Assessment – Building Local Civil Society Capacities to Fight Corruption in Iraq 2022-2024

1. General Information

Title of Consultancy:	Conducting an NIS assessment in Iraq – Building Local Civil Society Capacities to Fight Corruption in Iraq 2022-2024
Application Closing Date:	5 December 2022
Consultancy Start and End Date:	As soon as possible – 31 January 2024
Location of Consultancy:	Being present in Iraq is a mandatory requirement. In very specific cases, remote work may be accepted.

2. Background

Transparency International (TI) is the global civil society organisation leading the fight against corruption. Through more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, Germany, TI raises awareness of the damaging effects of corruption and works with partners in government, business, and civil society to develop and implement effective measures to tackle it.

Transparency International aims to achieve change in two main areas: policy and institutional change and behaviour change. However, in some contexts, raising awareness is a big achievement. Since 2014, TI has been using its [Impact Monitoring Approach](#) with the aim of building a more robust body of evidence of what works to stop corruption and to improve our learning and accountability.

TI is subsequently implementing a project entitled “Building Local Civil Society Capacities to Fight Corruption in Iraq.” The specific objective of this project is to support governance and state-building initiatives through the promotion of greater transparency and accountability among Iraqi civil society, public state actors and private sector. By tackling corruption, this project contributes to Iraq’s key priorities to ensure sustained improvements in governance which can contribute to more sustainable development and economic growth.

The project is a two-years programme and contributes to the multi-donor ‘Private Sector Development & Employment Promotion’ project co-financed by the European Union (EU) and the Federal Ministry for Development and Cooperation (BMZ) and implemented by the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

Transparency International Secretariat in Berlin (TI-S) is seeking an experienced local or regional researcher to carryout NIS assessment research in Iraq.

A [National Integrity System](#) (NIS) assessment is a research and advocacy tool which provides a comprehensive overview of the functioning of the main governance institutions in a country. It provides a holistic picture of how well the entire governance system in a country is working, as well as identifies specific flaws in the system and gives evidence-based recommendations which can be used to advocate for reform. Conducting an NIS assessment involves a comprehensive qualitative analysis of the institutions, or pillars of integrity, which make up the national integrity system. These pillars include public institutions such as the legislature, the executive, and the judiciary; watchdog

institutions such as the anti-corruption commission, the ombudsman, and the supreme audit institution; and non-state institutions such as political parties, private business and civil society. The lead researcher is responsible for delivery of the key research component of the NIS – the NIS country report.

The NIS methodology envisages a consultative approach and therefore involves key stakeholders throughout the process through a multi-stakeholder advisory group, which provides ongoing validation of the research and through a National Integrity Workshop, held towards the end of the project to discuss and improve the draft report.

The researcher will work closely with the NIS research coordinator at TI-Secretariat, who coordinates the project, facilitates the advisory group meetings, validates the assessment findings, and advises the researcher on presenting appropriate recommendations. The researcher also works with Research and Knowledge department at the TI-Secretariat, which provides ongoing technical assistance on applying the methodology in the given country.

3. Objective

The main objective of this assessment is to produce a solid and scientifically sound report that will be used to:

- a) Improve the understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the Iraqi's National Integrity System within the anti-corruption community.
- b) Help in establishing a strong anti-corruption coalition with the Iraqi's civil society organizations.
- c) Help in identifying issues for specific policy recommendations, policy papers and advocacy campaigns related to anti-corruption efforts like good governance and reform of legislations to enhance the accountability within Iraq.

4. Expected Deliverables

Based on the scope of services outlined below and following the NIS toolkit, the researcher is expected to submit a final draft NIS Iraq report as the ultimate output under this contract.

The primary tasks of the NIS researcher are to:

- Research and draft the NIS Iraq report within the agreed timetable and based on the standards laid out in the NIS toolkit. This includes the following tasks:
 - Conduct a thorough desk review of existing information.
 - Conduct interviews with key individuals and organisations, after consulting with the NIS research coordinator (and after notifying the government and getting any consent necessary to conduct the research, should this be required).
 - Manage the implementation of field tests.
 - Draft NIS pillar reports and revise based on feedback by TI-S and others.
 - Score NIS indicators and revise based on feedback received.
 - Draft remaining sections of NIS report and revise based on feedback received.

- Participate in NIS training workshop, 1st advisory group meeting, validation meeting and NIS workshop.
- Keep NIS research coordinator at the TI-Secretariat abreast on progress and any challenges encountered by providing input into monthly progress reports and participating in monthly calls, as appropriate.
- Contribute to promotional events surrounding the launch of the NIS report.

Intermediate outputs are specified in the timeline below.

Tasks	Role of Researcher	Timeline ¹
Signing of contract	Signature	31/01/2023
NIS training workshop	Participate	01/02/2023-15/02/2023
1 st Advisory Group meeting	Participate	15/02/2023
Desk review, key informant interviews & field tests	Lead and conduct	Starting 15/02/2023
First NIS report draft	Draft	1/8-15/8/2023
Validation meeting	Present & participate	15/9/2023
Updated NIS report draft	Draft	1/10/2023
NIS workshop	Present & participate	To be confirmed
Launching of NIS report	Present & Participate	To be confirmed

5. Selection Criteria

The researcher should have at minimum the following qualifications:

- PhD degree (or at least Master's degree with strong research experience) in political science, public administration, law, or another related social science.
- Proven expertise in political institutional analysis, with strong knowledge of Iraq governance system.
- Good understanding of the Iraqi state legal framework and its applications.
- Good understanding of the Iraqi state governance institutions and dynamics.
- Good understanding of the Iraqi society and its diversity.
- Excellent command of Arabic and English languages.
- Ability to write succinctly and for non-academic audience.
- Experience in working with quantitative indicators and rating methodologies.
- Experience using participatory research techniques.
- High academic standards (notations, bibliography, referencing)

The following qualities are considered an added advantage:

- Familiarity with transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption discourse, including anti-corruption covenants such as the UNCAC and the Arab Convention Against Corruption, and

¹ Timeline might be readjusted upon signature of the contract.

the data sources used for key anti-corruption indices (including, but not limited to, the CPI / Corruption Perception Index)

- Experience in policy reform and evidence-based advocacy in the field of anti-corruption and good governance.
- Advanced knowledge of the Kurdish language.

6. Remuneration and Cost

The Consultants should provide their estimated total fee as a lump sum or as standard daily or hourly rates.

For candidates based in the EU, EEA, UK, and Switzerland

Transparency International e.V. (Secretariat), (TI-S) is registered as a Business Entity in Germany with VAT identification number DE273612486. EU reverse charge applies. Service providers should issue invoices with zero VAT.

Consultants who are based in Germany and do not charge German VAT must confirm their small entrepreneur status.

7. Application Submission

The application should include the following documents in English:

- Letter describing your motivation and qualifications for the assignment.
- Curriculum vitae of key personnel involved in undertaking the assignment.
- A cost estimate of the above-mentioned services and outputs.
- A short overview of how the work will be approached.
- Two examples of and references to other similar work that has been undertaken previously (if available).
- List of publications authored and co-authored.
- Any letter of reference or recommendation

Applicants must also state their nationality in their tenders and provide the usual proof of nationality under their national legislation. This allows us to ensure that we comply with the European Commission procurement rules, in particular the rule of nationality.

Please email your application package in English by close of business on 5th December 2022 to NISA@transparency.org. Please indicate “NIS Assessment – Iraq” in the subject line of your email application.

Please note that only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

The Transparency International Secretariat is committed to creating an inclusive work environment where diversity is valued and where there is equality of opportunity. We actively seek a diverse applicant pool and therefore welcome applications from qualified candidates of all regions, countries, cultures, and backgrounds.

Selection of candidates is made on a competitive basis, and we do not discriminate on the basis of national origin, race, colour or ethnic background, religious belief, sex, gender identity and expression or sexual orientation, marital or family status, age, or ability. We kindly ask applicants to refrain from including in their application information relating to the above as well as from attaching photos.

Data protection

When you respond to this tender and submit your application, you provide consent that Transparency International e. V. keeps your application materials for the period of ten years according to German legal requirements. Afterwards Transparency International will delete your application and any personal data included in it. If you have any questions, please reach out to dataprotection@transparency.org.

8. Guidelines for handling overhead and travel expenses

Overhead

Regular overhead expenses associated with the Consultants maintaining their place of business, such as rent, telephone, utilities, or stationery, are included in the Consultant's professional fee, except where explicitly agreed otherwise in the contract.

Travel

Travel and accommodation expenses will as far as possible, and where applicable, be recovered from the institutions and companies hosting events or using the outputs provided by the Consultant.

Where such cost recovery is not possible, all travel is subject to prior approval by TI-S staff responsible for the financial management of the Project or TI Budget Line that will support the costs of travel. TI shall not issue travel advances to the Consultants. For accommodation or travel by air, rail, or coach, they will instead have to contact TI-S that will make travel arrangements on the Consultant's behalf.

All travel booked by TI-S will include **travel health and accident insurance** with worldwide coverage and Economy class only; accommodation will aim to achieve best value for money up to a 4-star category.

Consultants shall be entitled to invoice TI-S **only** for local transportation and visa cost (if applicable).

Subsistence allowance (per diems) and expenses for individual meals cannot be claimed. These are part of Consultant's business expenses.