



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

IRAQ ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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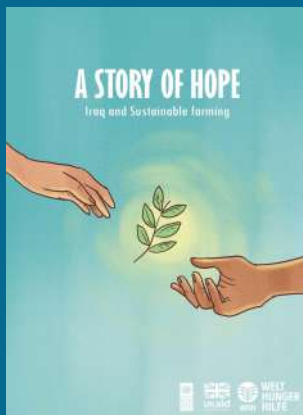
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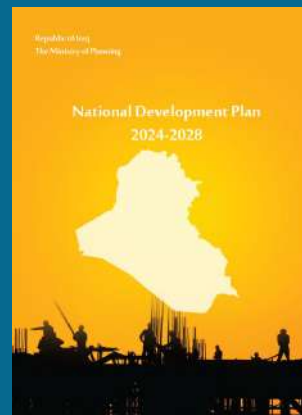
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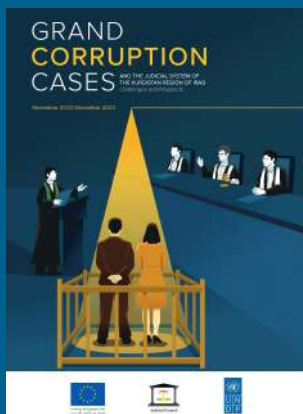
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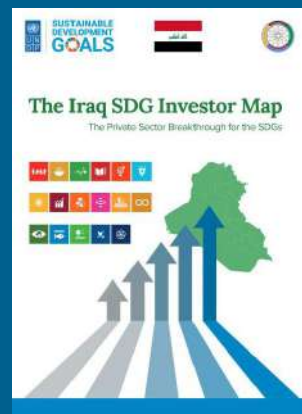
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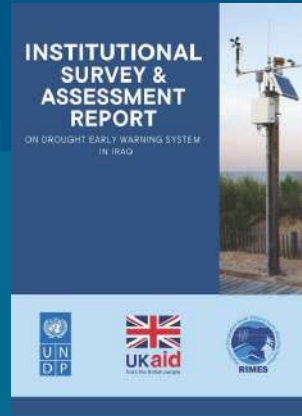
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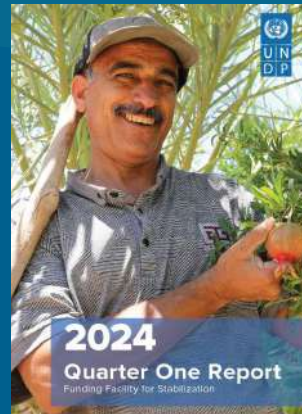
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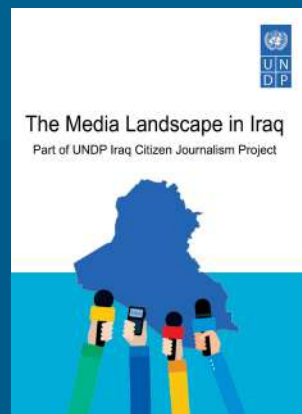
FFS - 2023 Annual Report



FFS - 2024 Quarter One Report



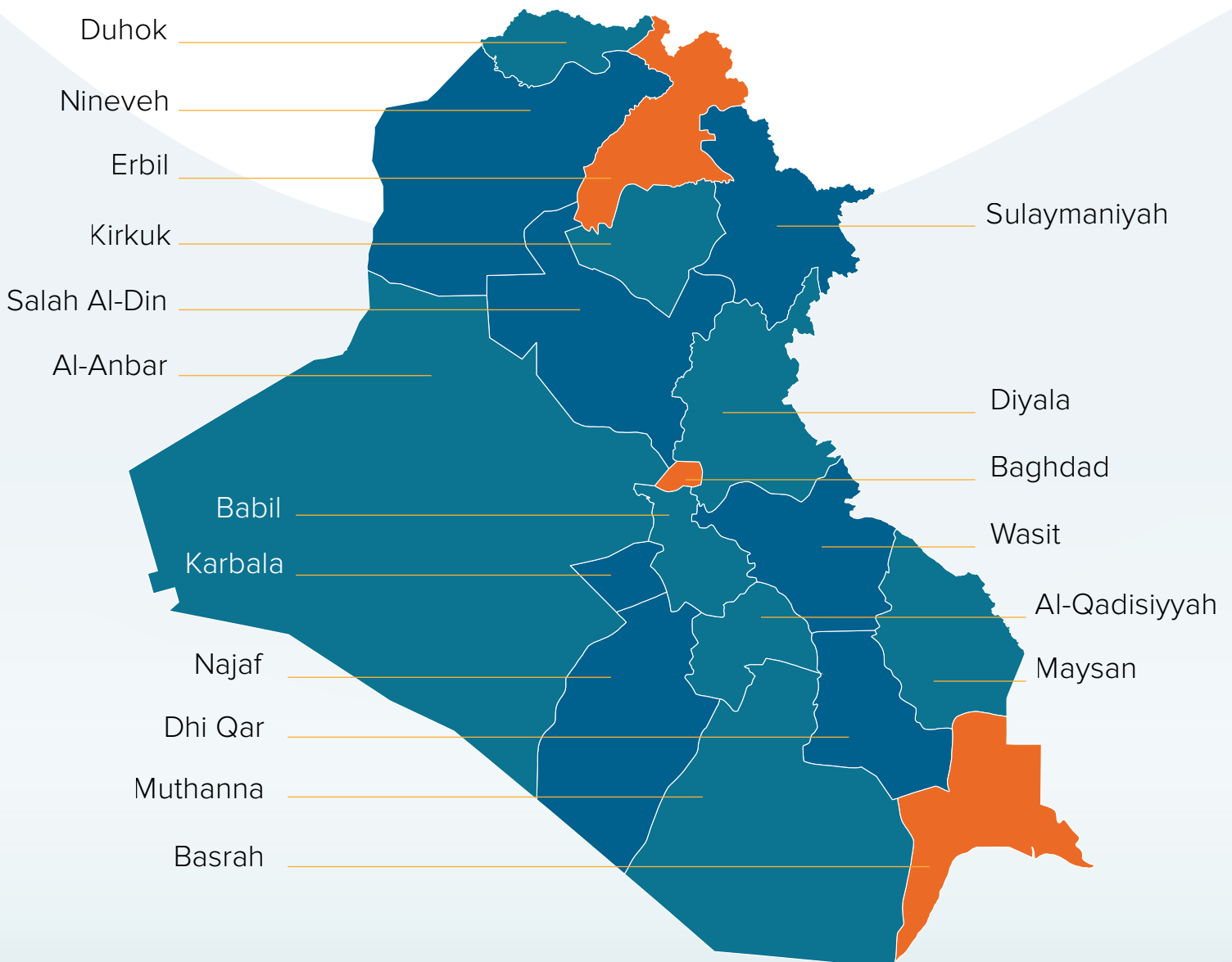
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WHERE UNDP WORKS IN IRAQ

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UNDP IRAQ CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS

Sincere appreciation is extended to the long-standing donors and partners whose unwavering support since 2015 has been crucial to UNDP Iraq's progress.





FOR

Message from UNDP Resident Representative for Iraq

As Iraq continues its journey toward stability, peace, and sustainable growth, UNDP stands proudly alongside its people, committed to empowering communities, fostering resilience, and shaping a brighter future together. Reflecting on our journey from November 2022 to today, we have seen powerful transformations, inspiring progress, and significant achievements made possible through collaborative partnerships.

Our social cohesion programme has played a critical role in reintegration and reconciliation efforts across the nation. In 2024 alone, with invaluable support from our partners—the European Union, Denmark, Japan, USAID, and SIDA—we finalized governorate-level Plans of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism across seven governorates, empowering communities through localized interventions. These initiatives directly contributed to establishing 12 new Peace Groups and facilitated the return and reintegration of 173 displaced families in Anbar Governorate.

We have also witnessed incredible economic resilience and entrepreneurship among Iraqis. Through targeted economic reintegration projects, we've supported over 6,600 individuals, nearly half women, offering cash-for-work opportunities, vocational training, and fostering the creation of over 2,200 small businesses—critical steps toward sustainable livelihoods and community stability.

The Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) continues to be a cornerstone of our efforts, completing 3,797 essential infrastructure projects with an investment of US\$1.05 billion. These initiatives significantly improved access to basic services and public utilities across Anbar, Nineveh, Salahuddin, Kirkuk, and Diyala, enabling thousands of displaced families to return safely and sustainably to their homes.

REWORD

Our commitment to promoting transparent governance and accountability remains unwavering. In partnership with Iraq's institutions, we've monitored over 280 judicial decisions related to grand corruption and mobilized public engagement through our award-winning #PasstheBaton campaign, reaching an extraordinary 65 million views across the region.

In security sector reform and rule of law, UNDP has significantly contributed by supporting the development and endorsement of key strategic documents, including the Ministry of Interior Strategy (2024–2026) and the comprehensive Security Sector Reform Strategy (2024–2032). Our initiatives such as the Model Police Stations have transformed policing into a community-oriented service, promoting transparency, accountability, and trust. We have also advanced women's inclusion and empowerment within the security sector, launching the Women Empowerment Action Plan to enhance women's leadership and participation.

Recognizing the urgency of Iraq's climate vulnerabilities, UNDP has actively supported groundbreaking initiatives such as the Climate Investment Plan, fully endorsed by the Iraqi government. At international platforms including COP29 in Azerbaijan and COP16 in Riyadh, we facilitated critical dialogues and secured essential support for Iraq's Nationally Determined Contributions, underscoring a robust national commitment to environmental resilience.

Additionally, we proudly supported the Government of Iraq in the successful launch of its National Development Plan (NDP) for 2024–2028—a strategic roadmap emphasizing inclusive growth, sustainable economic diversification, and climate resilience. Through technical guidance, capacity building, and strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, UNDP has ensured the alignment of the NDP with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), facilitating robust and inclusive national progress.

In the Kurdistan Region, our dedicated support included developing and launching the Climate Change Local Adaptation Plan (LAP), tailored specifically to address the region's unique environmental challenges. Additionally, our work in the region encompassed judicial capacity building, monitoring anti-corruption initiatives, and promoting community-level peacebuilding and economic reintegration projects. These targeted efforts have significantly enhanced the region's governance, resilience, and sustainable development.

On the digital transformation front, UNDP secured endorsement from the Prime Minister as the technical partner responsible for enhancing Iraq's digital governance indicators, aligning Iraq's digital future with international standards of transparency, efficiency, and accountability.

Our commitment to gender equality has made significant strides with initiatives like the Women's Data Platform and the Women Peace Mediators Network, empowering Iraqi women to lead peace processes and socio-economic initiatives, and ensuring that their voices shape the nation's future.

Together, alongside government counterparts, civil society, international partners, and most importantly, the resilient people of Iraq, we are building a stable, inclusive, and prosperous Iraq.

Thank you to the Government of Iraq and to all our international partners for your continued support as we move forward, united by our shared vision of peace, progress, and sustainable development. I invite you all—partners, stakeholders, and citizens—to continue joining us in this critical mission, because together we can ensure a resilient, peaceful, and prosperous future for every Iraqi.



Auke Lootsma
Resident Representative
UNDP Iraq



Social Cohesion & Community Resilience



Social Cohesion and Community Resilience: Strengthening Iraq's Path to Peace and Unity

Since 2015, UNDP Iraq has been at the forefront of efforts to restore peace, unity, and stability across Iraq. In 2024, these sustained efforts culminated in significant achievements under its comprehensive Social Cohesion Programme, made possible through the generous support of partners including the European Union, the Governments of Denmark and Japan, USAID, and SIDA.

Youth & Women as Peacebuilders

Empowering youth and women remained central to UNDP's strategy for lasting peace. In 2024 alone, 12 new Peace Groups were established across liberated governorates, expanding the total to 22 active groups. These forums empowered historically marginalized voices, directly involving women and youth in peacebuilding processes. Significantly, a landmark workshop in Baghdad brought together 25 female leaders from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds, enhancing interfaith dialogue and women's leadership in peace efforts.

Preventing Violent Extremism.

In 2024, UNDP closely coordinated with the Office of the National Security Advisor to strengthen local mechanisms to prevent violent extremism across Iraq. 15 governorate-level PVE sub-committees were supported to develop localized Plans of Action tailored to their specific contexts. These plans were informed by trainings for 21 CSOs and ONSA on human-rights based approaches to PVE and inclusive consultations with community members, civil society, and local authorities, ensuring local ownership and relevance. The jointly drafted plans include implementation workplans that localize the national Countering Violent Extremism Strategy and aim to promote tolerance and reinforce social cohesion at the grassroots level to prevent violent extremism. Additionally, UNDP supported counselling focal points from 107 Universities across Iraq with a ToT aimed at enhancing the capacities of Universities to support students in need and build their resilience to violent extremist narratives.

A person wearing a black niqab is shown from the side, holding a long, light-colored wooden staff. The background is a solid blue color with a subtle pattern of small, light-colored geometric shapes. The staff is positioned diagonally across the frame, from the bottom left towards the top right.

Local Peace Committees and Family Reintegration

In 2024, 26 UNDP engaged Local Peace Committees (LPCs) continued their pivotal role in unlocking returns and building social cohesion and reconciliation. LPC-led mediations, community engagements and awareness raising enabled the successful reintegration of at least 712 individuals into their communities. Since 2019, LPCs have effectively facilitated the return of 5,746 families, demonstrating the effectiveness of community-based and led reconciliation and social cohesion actions and mechanisms, highlighting an effective model to be supported and replicated.

Community-based Reintegration of Al-Hol Returnees

UNDP made notable advances in reintegrating returnees from Al-Hol camp through community-centered interventions. A critical milestone was the establishment of a specialized Training of Trainers program, equipping 16 influential community leaders, including 8 women, with skills essential for effective reintegration. Complementing these efforts, UNDP and Strategic Communications Strategy supported the Government of Iraq in drafting and finalizing a comprehensive Reintegration Strategy specifically addressing the multifaceted needs of Al-Hol returnees.





Socio-economic Reintegration and MHPSS Support

The socio-economic reintegration program significantly impacted 6,627 beneficiaries in 2024, with a targeted focus on empowering women (over 3,100 participants). Through vocational training, cash-for-work initiatives, and entrepreneurial development, beneficiaries launched 2,281 new businesses, diversifying local economies and fostering economic independence. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services were integrated throughout, ensuring comprehensive support for beneficiaries' sustainable reintegration.

Rehabilitating Community Infrastructure

Infrastructure rehabilitation continued to be an essential component of UNDP's resilience-building strategy. In Rummanah, Anbar governorate, 107 damaged homes were restored, greatly enhancing living conditions and enabling stable returns for displaced families. Furthermore, specialized training in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) for 17 police officers contributed significantly to safer community environments and facilitated secure returns.

Peace Journalism and Media for Social Cohesion

Recognizing media's influential role in shaping public narratives, UNDP significantly invested in peace journalism. In 2024, UNDP trained 87 journalists, including 39 women, on peace journalism and conflict-sensitive reporting. This training strengthened local media's capacity to counteract divisive narratives, promote inclusive storytelling, and advance broader peacebuilding objectives across Iraq.

Strategic Coordination and Advocacy

As co-chair of both the Reintegration Taskforce and the Durable Solutions Platform, UNDP strategically coordinated with UN agencies, NGOs, government stakeholders, and international donors. These platforms fostered integrated responses addressing displacement and enhancing essential services such as housing, livelihoods, civil documentation, and inclusive governance, ensuring coherent, sustainable solutions.

Capacity Building for Lasting Impact

Building sustainable peace required strengthening local capacity. Throughout 2024, intensive training equipped 57 government officials and 91 civil society representatives with essential skills for leading effective social cohesion and reintegration initiatives. Specialized workshops for 21 civil society organizations (CSOs), involving 47 participants, deepened the understanding of the root causes of violent extremism, directly aligning with national security and reconciliation priorities.

Looking Ahead: Ensuring gains made are kept

UNDP's comprehensive and integrated approach to social cohesion has yielded transformative results, fostering community resilience and laying solid foundations for peace across Iraq. To sustain and expand these successful initiatives, continued donor support is crucial. Further investment will enable UNDP to scale up interventions, reach more communities, and consolidate the impressive gains made, ultimately contributing to a unified, resilient, and peaceful Iraqi society.



STORIES:

I'm home, finally.



Remember Us?:
Survivors' Stories
from Al-Qataniya



Launching a New Project
to Support over **18,000**
Vulnerable Iraqis



BLOGS:

Preventing Violent
Extremism in Iraq



Conflict Sensitivity
Enabling Social
Cohesion



UNDP Supports
Launching of Plans
of Action to Combat
Violent Extremism



HEALING CONVERSATIONS

PROMOTING RETURNEE ACCEPTANCE, REINTEGRATION AND STABILITY THROUGH COMMUNITY TOWN HALLS IN IRAQ

In the aftermath of the ISIL in Iraq, approximately 1 million Iraqis remain displaced outside of the country. For many of them, the journey back home remains complex, particularly those who have perceived ISIL affiliations.

Despite these complex challenges, the Government of Iraq has made every effort to ensure that displaced Iraqis can return home.

It welcomes several returnees through its Jeddah One Rehabilitation Centre – where they are prepared for the journey back home.

However, the road to reintegrating with communities back home is charged with tension. Communities, reeling with past traumas remain hesitant to welcome them back home. Recognising this divide, UNDP, is collaborating with the Government of Iraq to promote community acceptance in the areas of return.



MUHAMMAD KOPURLU



It's very important to get the communities talking as many of them endured the loss of loved ones and property. While many are eager to resume their lives, they are also afraid of this process of return. This process is going to be long-term, so UNDP's facilitation of these conversations is vital.”

Full Story



REBUILDING DREAMS AFTER DISPLACEMENT

SOME DREAMS HAVE NO EXPIRATION DATE

In the resilient landscape of Salah al-Din's Baiji district, where the scars of conflict and displacement are etched into the earth, the story of Liqaa Hamed emerges as a beacon of hope. At 28, Liqaa's journey is one of unyielding perseverance—of how she fought to reclaim her dreams after nearly a decade of displacement, loss, and adversity.

For nine years, Liqaa and her family lived in limbo, uprooted from their home by the brutal violence of war. What followed was a relentless cycle of uncertainty, with every step forward fraught with challenges. The pain of leaving her childhood home was compounded by the trauma of losing loved ones, and the dream she had cherished since childhood—to become a teacher—seemed to slip further out of reach.

But in 2023, after years of struggle, Liqaa's family finally returned to the place they once called home.

In 2023, her family finally returned to their hometown. But return is not the end of the struggle, it is often the beginning of a new chapter filled with fresh challenges. Without stable income or support networks, many returnees like Liqaa faced the daunting task of rebuilding their lives from the ground up.

Liqaa's journey took a hopeful turn when she joined a Cash-for-Work initiative implemented by UNDP and World Vision International, with the support of USAID. As part of the programme, she participated in light rehabilitation and cleaning work at a local school, contributing directly to creating a healthier and more welcoming environment for students.



At first, Liqaa saw the programme only as a practical way to help cover her family's immediate needs following their return. "But then I started to feel something more. I was meeting people, reconnecting with my community, and seeing that I could still contribute."

While Liqaa did not become a teacher as she once dreamed, working in a school setting, helping to improve its condition for children, allowed her to support education in a different way. It brought her closer to her dream, if not in form, then in spirit.

More than just a short-term income source, the programme offered a bridge: easing the financial pressures of return while helping participants reintegrate into their communities. For Liqaa, it also offered a sense of belonging and purpose, a foundation on which to rebuild her future."

LIQAA HAMED

“

I was terrified that the children would see me as different, an outsider who didn't belong.”

Full Story





Advancing Economic Reform & Financial Inclusion in Iraq



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



BLE
ENT
S



خريطة مستثمري أهداف التنمية المستدامة في العراق

مشاركة القطاع الخاص في تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة

The Iraq SDG Investor Map

The Private Sector Breakthrough for the SDGs

Economic Reform and Financial Inclusion: Accelerating Iraq's Economic Transformation

Since 2015, UNDP Iraq has been committed to driving economic resilience and financial inclusion across the nation. In 2024, significant strides were made through strategic initiatives under the Funding Facility for Economic Reform (FFER), supported by key partners including USAID, JICA, and the Government of Italy.

The Funding Facility for Economic Reform (FFER)

FFER continued its pivotal role in 2024 by supporting Iraq's transition toward a diversified and resilient economy. This facility strategically funded key reforms aimed at strengthening governance, enhancing economic stability, and fostering an enabling environment for private sector growth. In 2024 alone, FFER supported critical regulatory reforms, streamlining processes that directly impacted MSME growth and financial access across the country. Notably, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), FFER was instrumental in developing a comprehensive tourism roadmap for the northern governorates. This initiative aimed to leverage the region's natural and cultural assets, significantly enhancing economic opportunities through sustainable tourism.

Digital Finance and the 2024 Regulation on Payments

A landmark achievement of 2024 was the adoption of the new Regulation on Payments, significantly modernizing Iraq's financial infrastructure. UNDP actively supported this digital transformation, facilitating the launch of enhanced digital payment systems and improving accessibility for previously underserved communities. This milestone regulation has laid the groundwork for secure, transparent, and efficient financial transactions, driving broader economic inclusion.

MSME Development Policy and Implementation

In collaboration with national partners, UNDP supported the design and implementation of Iraq's MSME Development Policy. This comprehensive strategy targeted capacity-building for MSMEs, improved access to finance, and the promotion of entrepreneurial skills. In 2024, more than 4,500 MSMEs received direct support through training, technical assistance, and facilitated access to financing, resulting in significant job creation and local economic development.

Financial Literacy and Financial Inclusion Week

Financial literacy emerged as a critical enabler of economic participation. UNDP spearheaded the Financial Inclusion Week in 2024, successfully reaching over 12,000 participants nationwide. The initiative delivered essential financial education, raising awareness of digital financial services and tools among diverse demographic groups, including youth, women, and rural populations. This campaign significantly advanced public understanding of financial management, fostering inclusive economic growth.

Strategic Partnerships with USAID, JICA, and the Government of Italy

Strategic partnerships remained central to the success of economic reforms and financial inclusion efforts. Collaboration with USAID, JICA, and the Government of Italy enabled extensive technical assistance and investment in economic policy frameworks and digital infrastructure projects. These partnerships facilitated the integration of international best practices into Iraq's economic reform agenda, yielding robust, sustainable results.

Long-standing partnership between UNDP Iraq and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) underscores UNDP's ongoing commitment to supporting Iraq's sustainable economic growth and diversification. This collaboration prioritizes infrastructure development and aligns closely with Iraq's National Development Plan 2024-2028, which outlines ambitious objectives aimed at enhancing economic resilience and promoting balanced, sustainable development across all regions of Iraq.

Through these integrated initiatives, UNDP Iraq continues to be a leading force in advancing economic reform and financial inclusion, creating robust foundations for an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Iraqi economy that benefits all citizens.



Story Highlight: Turning Point – Iraq’s Leap into the Digital Economy

2024 marked a transformative year for Iraq’s economic landscape, highlighted by the country’s significant leap into the digital economy. Enabled by UNDP’s technical support and strategic policy advocacy, Iraq introduced advanced digital payment systems, fundamentally reshaping the financial sector. This digital transition significantly reduced barriers to financial services, empowered small businesses, and provided unprecedented economic opportunities for thousands of Iraqis, underscoring a remarkable turning point in the nation’s economic trajectory.

Expanding Economic Opportunities

Building on these significant achievements, UNDP continues to deepen its engagement in economic reform and expanding financial inclusion initiatives across Iraq. To this end, in 2024, we conducted tax reform scoping missions at Federal and KRI level to identify priority areas for future support. We did this through a process of wide stakeholder consultations, including GoI and KRG institutions, development partners, private sector companies and CSOs. Priority areas of support include: public dialogue on tax reform and administration, tax crime investigations, digitalization of local fees, among others.



يقيم برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي بالشراكة
مع وبدعم من الوكالة الأميركية للتنمية الدولي

تطوير الإطار القانوني لدعم

الشمول المالي الرقمي في العراق

تحت إشراف

الأمم المتحدة

The Turning point:

Iraq's leap into the digital economy





Inclusive Development & Disability Empowerment



First National Forum for Empowering People with Disabilities

On July 11, 2024, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in partnership with Iraq's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), proudly hosted Iraq's first-ever National Forum for Empowering People with Disabilities. Held under the esteemed patronage of Prime Minister Eng. Mohammed Shiaa Al-Sudani, the event brought together diverse stakeholders including government officials, private sector leaders, civil society organizations, academics, and community members.

The forum focused on addressing significant barriers faced by persons with disabilities and exploring practical strategies to boost their vocational rehabilitation and economic inclusion. Key discussions emphasized the transformative role of modern technologies in educational and vocational training, strategies to effectively integrate people with disabilities into the job market, and ways to foster greater social responsibility across various sectors. Highlighting remarkable achievements, the event also featured compelling success stories from Iraqi youth with disabilities, reinforcing a collective commitment towards ensuring their comprehensive participation and meaningful inclusion in Iraq's social and economic fabric.

© UNDP Iraq / Mahdi Al-Saadawi





Empowering All Abilities:
Iraq's First Forum for
Disability Inclusion



Promoting Disability Inclusion in Iraq's National Development Plan (2024 – 2028)

UNDP Iraq played a central role in shaping Iraq's National Development Plan (NDP) 2024–2028, ensuring that the principles of inclusion and equity are woven into the country's long-term vision for sustainable development. The plan not only sets out a roadmap for economic diversification, environmental sustainability, and improved public services, but also prioritizes the empowerment of marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities.

Through its technical assistance and inclusive development approach, UNDP worked closely with national stakeholders to embed disability inclusion throughout the NDP. This includes commitments to make infrastructure and public services more accessible, foster social and economic participation of persons with disabilities, and support policies that remove barriers to their full engagement in national life.

By championing inclusive growth, UNDP helped position disability inclusion as a critical dimension of Iraq's development agenda—ensuring that no one is left behind in the country's journey toward a resilient, equitable, and prosperous future.

UNDP Iraq played a significant and instrumental role in supporting the launch of Iraq's **National Development Plan (NDP) 2024-2028**, which serves as a comprehensive roadmap for the country's socio-economic development over the next several years. This plan focuses on promoting sustainable economic growth, improving infrastructure, enhancing social services, and ensuring environmental sustainability.

Technical & Strategic Support to Inclusive Planning

Throughout 2024, UNDP delivered extensive technical and strategic support to governmental and civil society stakeholders, promoting inclusive planning and implementation. Specialized training sessions equipped over 120 policymakers, planners, and disability advocates with critical tools and methodologies for mainstreaming disability inclusion across various sectors, ranging from education and employment to health and infrastructure.

Capacity Building & Policy Integration

Capacity building efforts remained essential for sustainable inclusion. UNDP facilitated comprehensive workshops and training programs, directly benefiting more than 400 participants from government agencies, civil society organizations, and disabled people's organizations (DPOs). These efforts significantly enhanced the capabilities of stakeholders to develop, implement, and monitor inclusive policies effectively, leading to greater social cohesion and equitable development outcomes.





FUNDING FACILITY FOR STABILIZATION

The Role of the Funding Facility for Stabilization in Iraq's Development

The Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) was established in 2015 at the request of the Government of Iraq, at a critical moment when vast areas of the country had just been liberated from ISIS control. Its primary role was to serve as a rapid-response mechanism to restore essential services, rehabilitate critical public infrastructure, and create the conditions necessary for the safe and voluntary return of displaced Iraqis. Designed to be agile, locally responsive, and government-led, FFS acted as a bridge between humanitarian assistance and longer-term development—filling urgent gaps in service delivery while reinforcing government legitimacy in some of the most conflict-affected regions. Through its four key funding windows—public infrastructure, livelihoods, social cohesion, and capacity support to local authorities—FFS enabled Iraq to stabilize more than 30 cities across the five liberated governorates, helping to prevent a resurgence of violence and rebuild trust between citizens and the state.

With over \$1.88 billion in support from more than 30 donors, FFS has implemented over 3,800 projects: restoring hospitals, schools, electricity and water systems, government buildings, and roads; while also delivering job creation programmes, training for youth and women, and technical support to local governments. The impact is visible in cities once decimated by war, now bustling with life and rebuilding. Today, over 95% of displaced families have returned to their areas of origin—an achievement made possible, in large part, by the swift and strategic interventions of FFS. As Iraq transitions into a new phase of nationally led development, FFS is now winding down. But its human legacy endures. It lives in the story of the young boy in Mosul who now studies in a fully rehabilitated school; the mother in Sinjar who accesses clean water from a newly restored pipeline; the unemployed youth in Fallujah who found purpose and stability through vocational training. These are not just success stories—they are the lived reality of millions of Iraqis whose futures were reclaimed through the stabilizing power of FFS.

- [Wajida Khalaf Jassim: Inspiring a Generation of Female Leaders in Fallujah](#)



- [Crafting Hope and Community After Displacement](#)



FFS SECTORS



HEALTH

4,847,864

Beneficiaries

599

Projects

Doctors in the spotlight:
Saving lives and reviving
Iraq's health system



**New Cardiac Surgery
Centre at Al Salam Hospital
gives hope to thousands**



EDUCATION

1,636,907

Beneficiaries

1,279

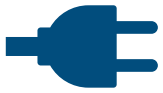
Projects

Quality Education: UNDP
Iraq's commitment to the
Sustainable Development
Goals in Iraq



**Mosul University's Theatre
Hall Officially Reopens
After ISIL Destruction**





ELECTRICITY

6,539,976

Beneficiaries

362

Projects



HOUSING

290,940

Beneficiaries

142

Projects



LIVELIHOODS

67,469

Beneficiaries

253

Projects



MUNICIPALITY

5,853,571

Beneficiaries

678

Projects



SEWAGE

1,875,699

Beneficiaries

112

Projects



WATER

5,825,166

Beneficiaries

321

Projects

BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION



BREP I



LIVELIHOODS

3,766

Beneficiaries

15

Projects

Kickstarting Her Business:
Sorur's Journey



AGRICULTURE

7,667

Beneficiaries

16

Projects

Cultivating resilience
in Iraq's farms



HOUSING

10,702

Beneficiaries

12

Projects

Iman: Spreading baking
sweetness in Mosul



BREP II



AGRICULTURE

17,571

Beneficiaries

17

Projects

Mohammad's Café:
Brewing success in
Diyala



HOUSING

10,746

Beneficiaries

14

Projects

**Support and Future
Prospects**





ANTI-CORRUPTION & ARBITRATION INITIATIVES (ACAI)

UNDP maintained its strong support for Iraq's anti-corruption efforts in collaboration with the European Union. In 2024, UNDP published its Trial Monitoring Reports for Federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), which assessed judicial practices and offered actionable anti-corruption recommendations. Key milestones include:

- Monitoring 184 cases and 173 verdicts in Federal Iraq and 100 cases and 50 judicial decisions in KRI related to grand corruption.
- Hosting the Regional Arab Integrity Forum with 300 participants from 30 countries.
- Achieving over 65 million views for the #PasstheBaton campaign, which won the MENA Public Relations Association's Best Non-Profit Campaign Award.

UNDP also advanced Iraq's foreign investment goals by providing technical guidance on commercial dispute resolution, organizing a conference on the Singapore Convention, and training law students in alternative dispute resolution (ADR). Iraqi students gained international recognition for their achievements in global mediation competitions.

BLOGS:

- Five ways UNDP has been supporting the Government of Iraq in ending corruption and boosting foreign investment



- Iraq Hosts the Second Arab Forum Against Corruption, With Participation from Over 29 Countries



- In the words of Kawthar and Amira: `A corruption free Iraq is the hope of all Iraqis`



STORIES:

- Light against Darkness, Peace against War, Hope against Conflict



- Together Against Financial Crime



- Enhancing Fraud Detection Skills in Iraq



- Learning together. Working together. Solving crime together.



#PasstheBaton

The 9th of December, International Anti-Corruption Day, marked a vital moment for Iraq's ongoing efforts to combat corruption. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al Sudani, the government has made fighting corruption a national priority alongside economic growth and improved service delivery. UNDP has been actively supporting these efforts, working with institutions in Baghdad and Erbil to strengthen legal, policy, and institutional frameworks for transparency and accountability. These efforts aim to restore trust, uphold constitutional values like equality and justice, and ensure that sustainable development can be achieved across Iraq.

As part of this commitment, UNDP, in collaboration with the Federal Commission of Integrity and the Kurdistan Region's Commission of Integrity, launched the EU-funded #PasstheBaton campaign. Running from 8–23 December, the campaign engaged the public—especially youth—through social media, raising awareness about corruption, its impact on vulnerable groups, and how to report it. With over 50 million views on TikTok and Instagram, and strong support from influencers, civil society, and the government, the campaign emphasized shared responsibility and collective action. It called on citizens to symbolically “pass the baton” to advocate for a corruption-free Iraq, sparking dialogue and education across the country.





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LIGHT AGAINST DARKNESS

PEACE AGAINST WAR, HOPE AGAINST CONFLICT

Light is hope. It enlightens its surroundings, inspires people, and guides them through the path. In Mesopotamia, light has been the symbol of hope and knowledge. It is the power of the Sun God, Shamash, who divines insight, knowledge, and protection against chaos and darkness. It is peace against war.

Ninewa, Diyala, Salah Al-Din, Anbar, Kirkuk, and many other ancient Mesopotamian towns are places where the first civilizations flourished, and where centuries-old legends were passed down from generation to generation. In this region, Gilgamesh explored the mysteries of life and death, Hammurabi established the first legal code, and Ishtar, the ancient goddess of love, was revered. This land has witnessed many “firsts” in human history.

ISIL’s invasion of these lands displaced 4.9 million people, shattered communities, and destroyed ancient towns, impacting millions of Iraqis. Since the liberation in 2017, life has been difficult, but slowly, the communities are recovering and wounds are healing.



ZAID AL WESI



Talking is not the only way of expression and dialogue. Photography can overcome some barriers we might have. It can convey collective emotion and stories, help build empathy and understanding, which are the essentials of building peace. ”

Full Story



A photograph of a man in a blue shirt looking at a cornfield. The image is dominated by tall, green corn plants. The man's head and shoulder are visible on the right side of the frame. A dark, semi-transparent circular shape is overlaid on the bottom left of the image, containing the text.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, & CLIMATE CHANGE



Energy Efficiency GEF

UNDP's Promoting Carbon Reduction Through Energy Efficiency (EE) Techniques in Iraq achieved notable milestones in 2024:

- Support the government in endorsing:
 - Policy to implement energy efficiency measures for one public building per public entity annually and reducing energy transmission losses
 - Enforcing building insulation codes for investment projects
- Internationally recognized capacity building for 85 energy auditors and managers from all governorates and with 30 % women participation

UNDP's Iraq Crisis Response and Resilience Programme (ICRRP) achieved notable milestones in 2024:

- Generated 2.5 megawatts of clean energy, contributing to Iraq's off grid renewable energy capacity.
- Reduced water wastage by 146 million liters annually through improved irrigation in nine southern governorates.
- Reached over 500,000 individuals in different communities through targeted climate awareness campaigns.
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 1,233 tones of CO2 annually.

Within this project, UNDP was able to initiate capacity building for more than 150 youth, to embark on jobs in renewable energy industry.

FFER Climate Governance:

UNDP delivered seven capacity building programmes with 168 trainees (including 51 women), collaborating with Gol and associated entities to enhance their skills and capacities on Energy and Environmental management, this was in line with the commitment of the Gol to implement the ISO standards for energy and environmental management.

As well the UNDP was able to deliver capacity building for more than 50 companies working in renewable energy market in Iraq, to enhance their business skills and expand business coverage as well project implementation.



CLIMATE INVESTMENT PLAN:

At COP29, UNDP organized a dedicated panel featuring prominent figures, including Ambassador Fareed Yasseen, Dr. Haider Makkiyah, Ms. Bayan Abdulrahman, Mr. Mohammed Al-Najjar, and UNDP Resident Representative Mr. Auke Lootsma. This panel delved into actionable pathways for a just and equitable climate-resilient transformation of Iraq's economy. Discussions highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration, aiming to create a cohesive approach to environmental challenges and to attract climate investments that are both impactful and sustainable, this event was targeting the awareness and harnessing the collaborative work and approaches on Climate Investment in Iraq, an ongoing project during November, it is worth mentioning the document of Climate Investment Plan (Phase I: Transitional 2025-2023) is now fully approved and endorsed by the Iraqi government. Soon launched and publish, this document will help shed a light on the economic related climate actions that will enhance the economic diversification in Iraq with a focus on climate actions and goals, it also defined the main streams of investments, and approximate budgets for investments.

LOCAL ADAPTATION PLAN (LAP)

UNDP provided technical support to drive the whole-of-government approach in the Kurdistan region of Iraq to outline the region-specific Climate change Local Adaptation Plan (LAP), Launched in May 2024, with generous support from USAID. In addition, the MoEn launched the Strategy for the Protection and Improvement of Environment (2024-2030) in Iraq in September 2024, that outlined the importance of whole-of-government approach to deal with the environmental crises in the country.



SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES:

Baghdad International Water Conference 2024

Furthermore, UNDP supported and participated in the Fourth Baghdad Water Conference, co-organizing two panels on water desalination, while a water storytelling platform was launched to enhance public awareness.

UNDP Support to Iraq during COP29 in Azerbaijan

During the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22, 2024, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) played a pivotal role in supporting Iraq's active participation. Recognizing the critical challenges Iraq faces due to climate change, UNDP collaborated closely with the Iraqi government to ensure their concerns and initiatives were prominently featured on the global stage.

In the lead-up to COP29, UNDP facilitated high-level dialogues between Iraqi officials and international stakeholders, emphasizing the urgency of addressing Iraq's environmental vulnerabilities. These discussions underscored the necessity for diversified economic strategies and the enhancement of essential infrastructures, particularly in sectors such as water, energy, food, and housing. A key focus was on mobilizing public-private partnerships to align with Iraq's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, aiming to foster sustainable development and climate resilience.

UNDP Support to Iraq during COP 16 in Riyadh:

In addition to its efforts at COP29, UNDP extended its support to Iraq during the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from December 2 to 13, 2024. Given Iraq's susceptibility to desertification and land degradation, UNDP facilitated Iraq's engagement in key discussions, ensuring that the nation's challenges and strategies were effectively communicated to the international community. This involvement aimed to foster collaborative efforts and secure commitments to combat desertification, thereby promoting sustainable land management practices in Iraq.

UNDP also supported Iraq's UNCCD COP16 participation by providing technical support and capacity building to Iraq's delegate to ensure that the first pavilion for Iraq is well prepared, and the negotiators are well equipped for CCD negotiations, in addition, UNDP supported the GoI on grounds in COP16, held various stakeholders meetings, panels and shed light on continuous efforts of GoI on the climate actions, as well the opportunities for agriculture and restoring of lands, facilitating international events to discuss available opportunities and means of implementations.

Through these concerted efforts at both COP29 and COP16, UNDP has reinforced its commitment to bolstering Iraq's capacity to address environmental challenges. By advocating for strategic investments, facilitating high-level dialogues, and promoting sustainable practices, UNDP continues to support Iraq in its journey towards a resilient and sustainable future.

BIODIVERSITY

UNDP also supported Iraq's commitment to other international environmental conventions such as updating Iraq's National Biodiversity Targets (NBTs) in alignment with the CBD new global biodiversity framework (GBF).

PARTICIPATORY ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT

UNDP supported the first ever Participatory Ecosystem Assessment of Iraq's marshlands in Thi Qar, Missan, and Basra. The assessment reflects on the status (socioeconomic, nature) during the period before the dissection and up to current time from the point of view of the participants. The report was launched in January 2025, while the field work and desk work spanned 2023 and 2024 respectively. This report represents an on-ground milestone for the people of the marshes.





Catalytic Climate Action in Iraq:

In 2024, UNDP facilitated Iraq's National Energy Transition Framework, trained 50 officials in climate risk reduction, and enhanced drought resilience by equipping 251 farmers with sustainable agricultural tools under the Catalytic Climate Action in Iraq (CCAI) project (organic crops organic fertilizers and kit for Agriculture).

Supported advanced transboundary water governance, leading to Iraq's historic accession to the UN Transboundary Water Convention, and the development of a Climate Vulnerability Index, and over 50 officials were trained in water diplomacy.

The Institutional Plan and National Vision for Transboundary Water Diplomacy were introduced alongside a comprehensive climate-resilient water study. UNDP also trained 20 environmental police officers in law enforcement and launched Iraq's Environmental Survey for Industrial Facilities in collaboration with the Ministry of Planning to support sustainable practices.



BLOGS:

- From COP29 - Pathways for Climate Investment in Iraq
- Iraq in COP29 – Champions Despite the Challenges



YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

CHAMPION HEALTH AND CLIMATE AWARENESS IN IRAQ

From 12 August, International Youth Day, through 25 August, young Iraqi volunteers took action during the Arbaeen visits, one of the largest religious gatherings in the world. A campaign was launched to raise awareness, highlighting the impact of climate change on health, water, and food safety, managing chronic illnesses, and infection prevention during mass gatherings.

Run by over 4,000 volunteers on the ground and supported by over 200 online volunteers on social media, this initiative was a joint effort by the Iraqi Ministry of Health (MoH) and UN agencies, including WHO, UNDP, UNFPA, WFP, and UNV.

The campaign's focus was clear: to help pilgrims stay safe during the intense summer heat and to inform them about the broader health risks posed by climate change. Volunteers distributed over 100,000 brochures, with 30,000 handed out in Karbala alone. These materials provided practical advice on preventing heat strokes, handling food safely, understanding the risks of climate-induced diseases, addressing chronic diseases, and preventing infections in the context of mass gatherings.



The campaign also saw significant online engagement, with over 200 UNV Online Volunteers. These Online Volunteers extended the campaign's reach to the screens, reaching over 530,000 people through social media. By leveraging social media, they helped ensure that essential health and safety advice reached not just those physically present at the visits but also people across Iraq.

By the end of the campaign, on-ground medical units stationed during the mass gathering event had received targeted health messages. Additionally, countless visitors and online followers had been informed about how to protect themselves against climate-related health risks. This initiative harnessed the power of youth to lead meaningful change, especially in environments impacted by climate challenges.

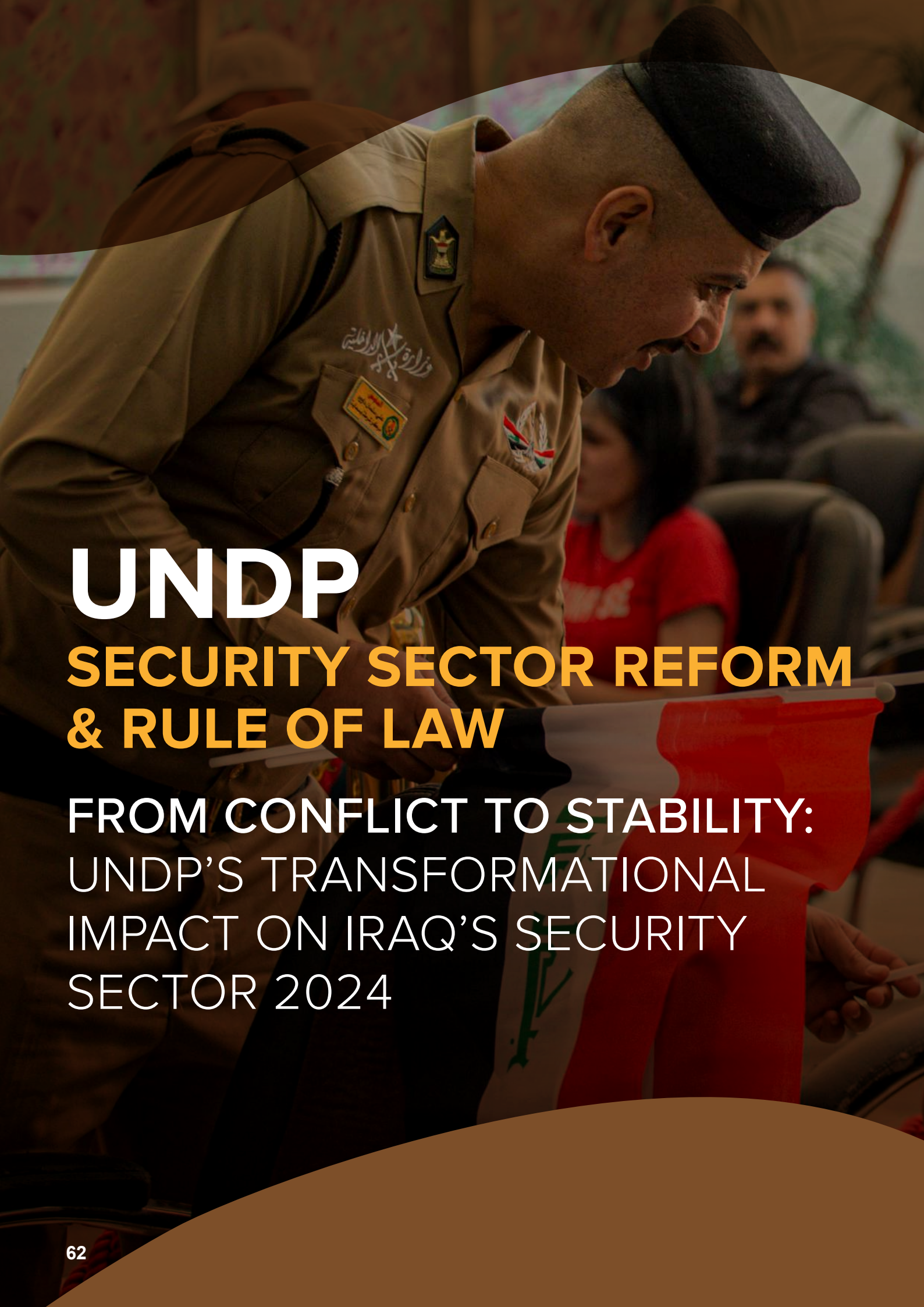
ONE OF THE PARTICIPATING VOLUNTEERS



Our volunteer team in Karbala has provided health guidelines to prevent heatstroke, food poisoning, and other illnesses ”

Full Story





UNDP

SECURITY SECTOR REFORM & RULE OF LAW

FROM CONFLICT TO STABILITY:
UNDP'S TRANSFORMATIONAL
IMPACT ON IRAQ'S SECURITY
SECTOR 2024



Strategic Achievements in Security Sector Reform (SSR).

UNDP Iraq has been at the forefront of transformative efforts to advance security sector reforms and foster sustainable peace. One of the most significant achievements in 2024 was the development and official endorsement of two pivotal strategies: the Ministry of Interior (MoI) Strategy (2024–2026) and the Security Sector Reform (SSR) Strategy (2024–2032). These strategies, crafted with UNDP’s guidance, aim to modernize Iraq’s security framework by promoting a vital transition from military to civilian security operations. To ensure the effective implementation of these strategies, UNDP also supported the development of comprehensive action plans and monitoring frameworks. These initiatives are instrumental in ensuring sustainable security governance and strengthening institutional accountability.

Climate Security Integration

Another notable achievement was the integration of climate security considerations into Iraq’s National Security Strategy (NSS) and the National Security Sector Reform Strategy (SSRS). This pioneering move, facilitated by UNDP, acknowledges the intricate relationship between environmental challenges and national security. By embedding climate security into Iraq’s strategic planning, UNDP is supporting the country in building resilience against emerging environmental threats and ensuring that climate risks are factored into long-term security measures.

Environmental & Climate Justice

Enhancing coherence and coordination across justice, human rights, and environmental institutions involves aligning regulatory frameworks on environmental justice with international standards, improving understanding of procedures and challenges in environmental cases, and strengthening the capacity of key justice sector institutions to promote greater access to environmental and climate justice.



Transforming Iraq's Policing for Peace and Stability

Iraq's journey toward peace has been strengthened by the Model Police Stations (MPS) initiative, led by the Ministry of Interior (MoI) and supported by UNDP. This initiative has transformed policing from a militarized approach to a people-centered service, enhancing access to justice and building community trust in conflict-affected areas like Anbar, Ninewah, Basra, and Baghdad. The success of the MPS has driven the government's commitment to expand it nationwide, promoting responsive and accountable policing.

Strengthening Law Enforcement and Community Security

UNDP prioritized capacity building and community engagement. Over the past year, more than 249 stakeholders, including 198 police officers and members of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Stability and Fragility Assessment Committees (SFAC), received specialized training. These sessions focused on modern policing techniques, effective community engagement, and advanced investigative practices, ensuring that law enforcement personnel are well-equipped to meet the evolving security needs of Iraqi communities.

Furthering its commitment to fostering trust and collaboration between communities and law enforcement, UNDP facilitated 16 Open House Days across five governorates. These interactive events provided vital platforms for dialogue, allowing community members to voice their concerns, engage with police officers, and collaboratively address local security challenges. To institutionalize this inclusive approach, UNDP developed the Model Police Station (MPS) Blueprint. This blueprint serves as a comprehensive guide for promoting community-centered policing across Iraq, ensuring greater transparency, accountability, and public trust in law enforcement institutions.







Empowering women

within Iraq's security sector has been a key focus area for UNDP. The development and launch of the Women Empowerment Action Plan marked a significant milestone in promoting gender inclusivity within the Ministry of Interior (MoI). This action plan seeks to enhance women's participation in law enforcement, improve working conditions, and foster leadership opportunities for female officers. In addition, UNDP organized targeted workshops and mentorship programs, providing women with the tools and support needed to excel in leadership roles within the security sector.

These efforts underscore UNDP's dedication to advancing gender equality and fostering an inclusive organizational culture within Iraq's policing framework. In parallel, UNDP provided technical assistance and coaching to the National Directorate of Iraqi Women (NDIW) staff on a number of key areas of their work, with a focus on the upcoming second NAP review, groundwork to commence the third NAP, and their engagement on gender-responsive Security Sector Reform (SSR).

The technical support focused on reviewing implementation of the second NAP by security institutions; strategic and technical engagement of NDIW with SSR processes and security institutions; and development of high-impact NAPs.

In support of a more systematic and impactful engagement of the Directorate with the security sector, UNDP jointly with NDIW developed a five-year strategy for the Directorate's engagement with SSR and the security sector. In addition to designing and delivering a dedicated capacity development training for key security sector institutions aimed to enhance the working relationship between the NDIW and the women offices in SS institutions.

Moreover, developed and conducted the Leadership for Women's Empowerment training targeting senior personnel from key departments, in MOD and MOI including planning, human resources, training and other departments responsible for recruitment, professional development, and promotion of women as well as departments responsible for services and policies relevant to female civilians. The training aimed to instill participants with the knowledge, skills and perspectives to more effectively support women's empowerment within their institutions and in its external activities as part of their daily duties and responsibilities in the security sector.

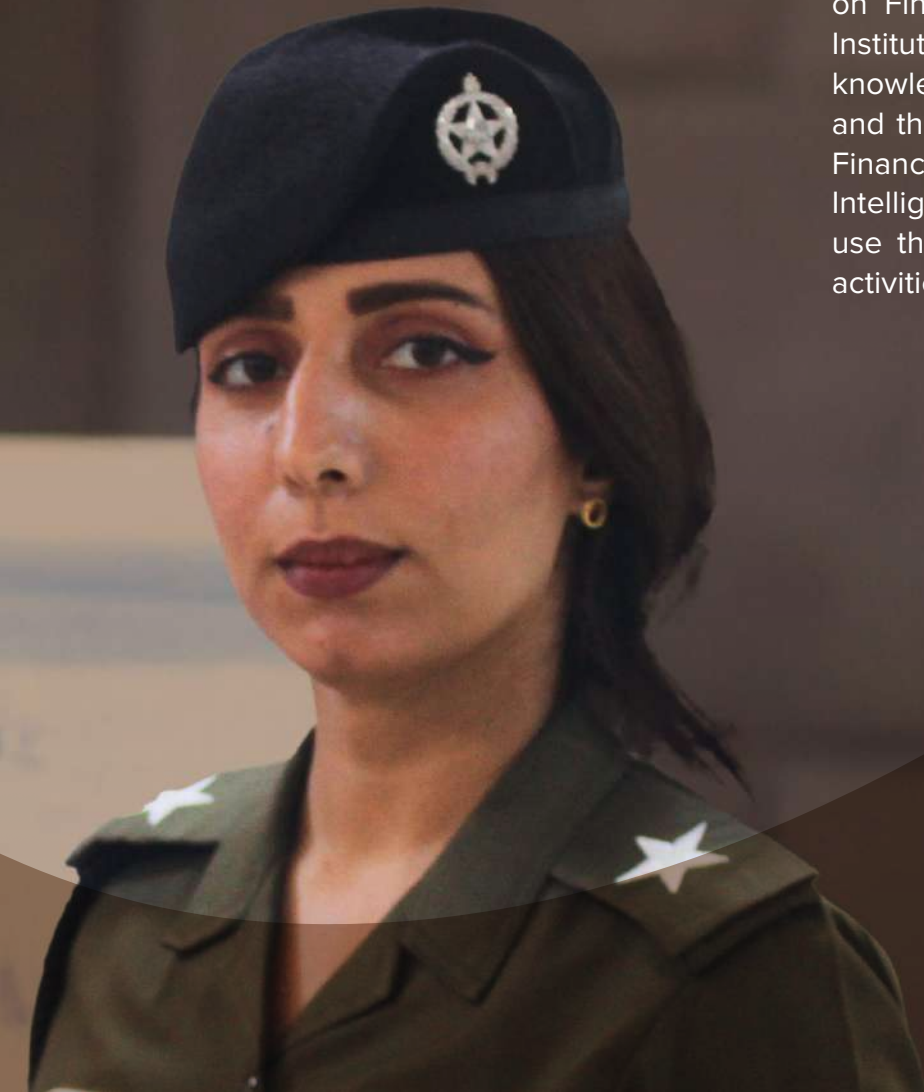
Iraq's MoI Modernizes Crime Management with Digital Criminal Record System

The Ministry of Interior (MoI), with UNDP support, has successfully digitalized Iraq's criminal record system. Following a 2023 expert assessment of over 100 police stations and courts, the MoI developed and piloted the system in Baghdad and Mosul. A joint assessment in August 2024 confirmed its efficiency and transparency, leading to its nationwide rollout.

Currently, 889 out of 1,266 police stations and anti-crime offices are connected. The system operates 24/7, replacing paper records, enabling real-time data exchange, and supporting crime trend analysis. Future plans include expanding to remaining stations, integrating with judiciary and emergency systems, and enhancing inter-agency data sharing—marking a key step in strengthening Iraq's security sector.

Financial Investigations and Anti-Money Laundering

UNDP continued to foster interagency collaboration in Complex Financial Crimes Investigations through capacity building and technical advice provided to 11 institutions [1] benefitting 693 (587 M/106 F) judges and investigators. As a direct outcome of these efforts, the Chief Justice encouraged investigative judges to form task forces in collaboration with investigative agencies – an approach advised through UNDP workshops, particularly when investigating organised financial crimes. One of the key achievements of the project was the development and adoption of a Financial Investigations Handbook by 11 Iraqi agencies. The handbook Iraq to demonstrate its compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards, as highlighted in Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF's) May 2024 Mutual Evaluation Report of the Republic of Iraq. The project's counterparts such as the Supreme Judicial Council informed that they integrated the Handbook on Financial Investigations into the Judicial Institute's curriculum, ensuring continuous knowledge transfer. The Ministry of Interior and the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Office (Iraq's Financial Intelligence Unit) also reported that they use the Handbook in their ongoing training activities and workshops



Strengthening Iraq's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)

During the onsite assessment by the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF) in September 2023, UNDP provided targeted timely expert advice in supporting the Financial Intelligence Unit of Iraq (FIU) [2] in undergoing the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENA FATA) mutual evaluation report and leveraged the process for lasting sustainable reforms. Throughout the year, UNDP supported FIU to make significant progress in combating money laundering and terrorism financing. A comprehensive Suspicious Transaction Report (STR) was developed, analyzing three years of trends, identifying gaps, and recommending improvements. A Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Initiative was launched to enhance collaboration, alongside a guideline for Financial Institutions and DNFBPs to strengthen AML/CFT compliance. A training manual for addressing misuse of Non-Profit Organizations was also finalized.

To enhance efficiency, sanctions notification software was installed, streamlining processes for the Terrorism Fund Freezing Committee (TFFC). Capacity-building efforts saw 114 stakeholders trained, including a study visit to Spain's FIU and specialized sessions on beneficial ownership and risk-based approaches. The FIU also launched a LinkedIn profile and developed a strategic communication framework to raise public awareness.

Strengthening National Capacities for Asset Recovery [3]

UNDP advanced Iraq's asset recovery efforts through high-level engagements with key entities like the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) and the Commission of Integrity (Col), securing readiness for collaboration. A work plan for an Asset Recovery Handbook and an outline for Joint Investigation Teams' SOPs were drafted, alongside feedback for the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. International cooperation was strengthened with the signing of an MoU between Iraq's Col and Spain's Prosecution Office. Regionally, UNDP supported Col participation in an expert meeting in Riyadh, enhancing Iraq's approach to parallel financial investigations. These efforts mark a crucial step in bolstering Iraq's asset recovery and anti-corruption frameworks.

Conclusion

In 2024, UNDP Iraq made significant strides in advancing Security Sector Reform (SSR), laying the groundwork for a civilian-led, rights-based security framework. Through strategic partnerships with national institutions, key policies such as the Ministry of Interior Strategy (2024–2026) and the comprehensive SSR Strategy (2024–2032) were not only adopted but also operationalized with actionable plans and robust monitoring systems. Progress was particularly notable in people centered policing, marked by the expansion of Model Police Stations, the launch of a national blueprint, and enhanced public engagement through Open House Days. UNDP also championed cross-cutting priorities, including gender inclusion with the Women Empowerment Action Plan, climate-security integration, and digital transformation, exemplified by the scaling of Iraq’s digital criminal record system to nearly 900 police stations.

Beyond policy and community engagement, UNDP further strengthened national capacities in critical areas like financial crime and environmental security. This was achieved through specialized training, interagency collaboration, and the development of practical tools such as the Financial Investigations Handbook. These collective efforts represent a foundational shift toward a more transparent, accountable, and sustainable security sector in Iraq, demonstrating a robust commitment to fostering a secure and rights-based environment for all.

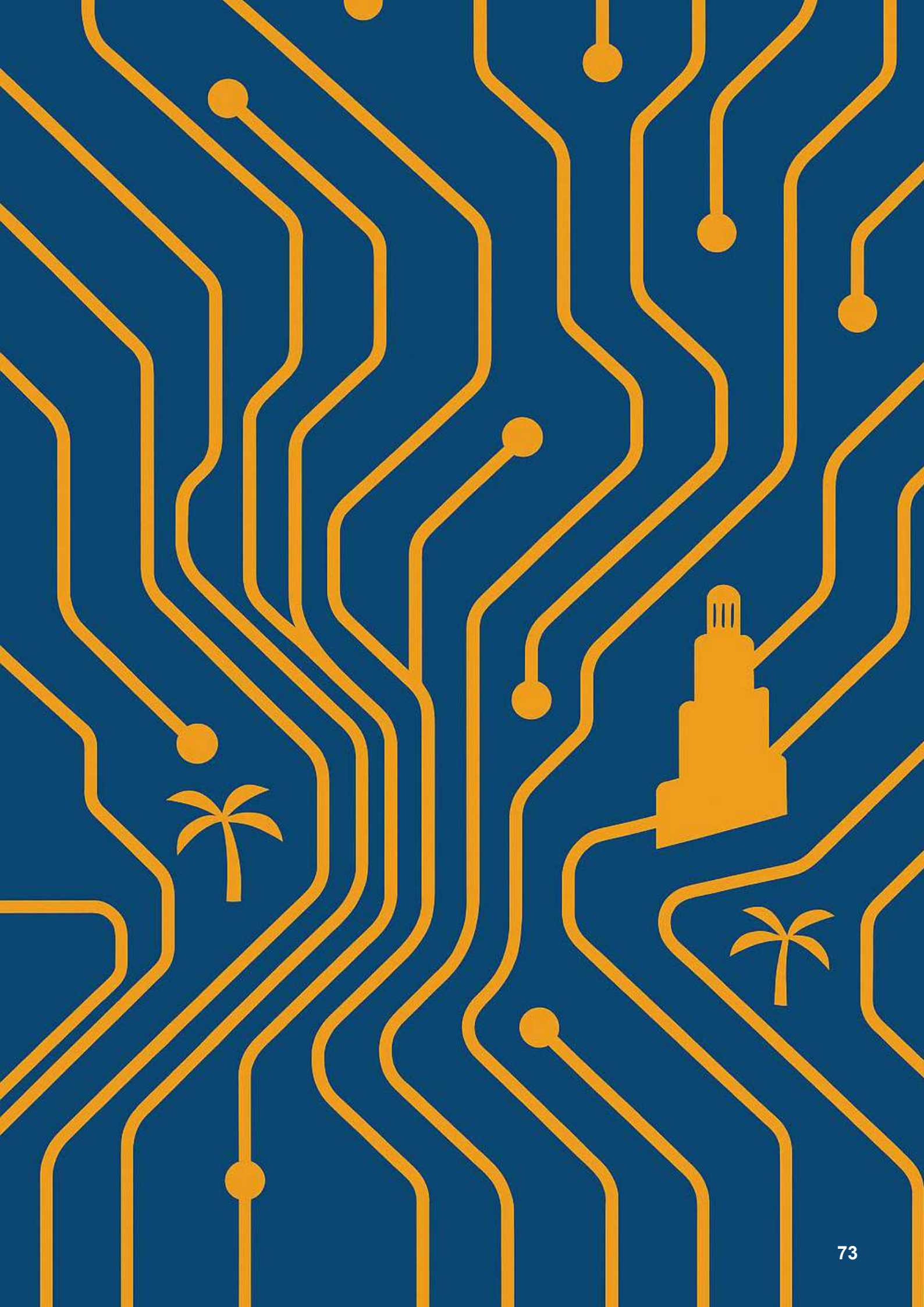
[1] The Supreme Judicial Council, Commission of Integrity, Board of Supreme Audit, Ministry of Interior, Anti-Money Laundering / Counter Terrorist Financing Office – from Federal Iraq; Judicial Council, Prosecutor General’s Office / Ministry of Justice, Commission of Integrity, Board of Supreme Audit, Ministry of Interior and Assayish – from the KRI.

[2] The AML/CFT is the official FIU of Iraq and is referred to in the report as Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

[3] This project was terminated at the beginning of 2024

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION & GOVERNANCE





In 2024, UNDP Iraq achieved groundbreaking progress in digital transformation, cementing its role as a trusted partner in modernizing governance and fostering sustainable development. Through strategic collaboration with Iraq's Supreme Committee for Digital Transformation under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), UNDP spearheaded initiatives that positioned Iraq to align with international digital benchmarks and catalyze a more inclusive digital economy.

A hallmark achievement of the year was securing the Prime Minister's endorsement of UNDP as the technical partner for enhancing Iraq's digital indicators. This decision underscored the Government's trust in UNDP's capacity to navigate Iraq's digital transformation journey, ensuring alignment with global standards such as the Oxford Insights, GSMA Mobile Connectivity Index, World Bank GovTech Maturity Index, and the UNDP Digital Development Compass as the indicator showcase platform.

We supported GoI in their decision-making process to:

- Identify its national digital priorities
- Establish its Supreme Committee for Digital Transformation





برعاية دولة رئيس الوزراء
المهندس محمد شجاع السوداني

يقيم برنامج الامم المتحدة الإنمائي بالشراكة
مع وبدعم من الوكالة الامبركية للتنمية الدولية

تطوير الإطار القانوني لدعم
الشمول المالي الرقمي في العراق

العراق، بغداد
10-11 تشرين الاو





Developing Legal Framework to Drive Digital Financial Inclusion in Iraq

تطوير الاطار القانوني لدعم الشمول المالي الرقمي في
العراق

Baghdad 10th - 11th October

بغداد 10 - 11 تشرين الاول



برعاية دولة تونس الوزيرة
المهندسة محمد شايخ السوداني

بإشراف برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي، بالتعاون
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الإطار القانوني
للمشمول الرقمي



JICA AND UNDP IRAQ

Strengthening Iraq's ODA Loan Oversight & Facilitating Implementation

UNDP Iraq and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have renewed their Partnership Agreement for the 14th time, reaffirming their commitment to advancing Iraq's socio-economic development through Japanese ODA Loans. JICA, with a financing portfolio of nearly USD 11 billion, including 34 project loans and two development policy loans, has played a pivotal role in supporting Iraq's infrastructure development and public service improvements, in alignment with the country's National Development Plans.

As part of this partnership, UNDP's Loan Management Unit (LMU) provides fiduciary oversight, implementation monitoring, policy advice, and capacity development support to the Government of Iraq (GoI) to ensure efficient and transparent implementation of development projects financed by Japanese ODA Loans.



Key Achievements in 2024

1. Strengthening Gol's Oversight through the Monitoring Committee (M/C)

- Facilitated four Monitoring Committee (M/C) meetings in 2024, bringing the total to 56 since 2008. This made the M/C the longest-standing coordination platform within the Gol.
- Engaged PMAC, MoF, MoP, the Embassy of Japan, JICA, and implementing ministries/agencies to address strategic and procedural challenges.
- Supported policy discussions to resolve cross-cutting issues, including tax exemptions, custom duty waivers, and disbursement bottlenecks, ensuring smoother project execution.

2. Enhancing Fiduciary Oversight & Implementation Compliance

- Conducted over 30 on-site monitoring and oversight missions, including fiduciary reviews, to ensure compliance with international standards and JICA's procurement, contract management, and financial management requirements.
- Provided fiduciary oversight on disbursement planning, L/C processing, fund flow management, and financial forecasting to ensure effective financial execution.

3. Advisory Support to the Gol on Laws, Regulations, and Government Investment Programs

- Reviewed and analyzed Iraq's laws, regulations, instructions, and decisions relevant to ODA loan projects, assessed their impact, and provided actionable recommendations to the M/C and JICA to address potential challenges.
- Supported the listing of one new ODA Loan on Federal Budget 2024 schedules and provided ongoing support for listing Japanese ODA Loan financed projects on the Annual Investment Programme, a prerequisite for listing on the Federal Budget.

4. Capacity Development and Institutional Strengthening

- Delivered four training courses on procurement, financial management, and project management for 90 Gol officials including 22 females.
- Provided hands-on coaching for Gol officials, improving compliance with JICA procurement and financial procedures while strengthening institutional capacity through peer learning.

5. Advancing New Loan Formulation and Implementation

- Facilitated the signing of one new ODA loan agreement between Gol and JICA.
- Assisted in the identification, formulation and Gol endorsement of new ODA Loans for the coming year.



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT



9
الصناعة
والهيكل
الأساسي



UNDP established the national woman data platform

The Women's Data Platform marks a significant advancement in Iraq's gender equality journey. By consolidating critical data in a user-centric, interactive, and secure environment, the Platform will empower policymakers, civil society, and the public to base decisions on robust evidence. With UNDP's technical support and a committed local team, this initiative sets the stage for sustained improvements in women's socio-economic empowerment and underscores Iraq's dedication to fulfilling its commitments under the SDGs, based on extensive multi-stakeholder engagement to refine its objectives, technical framework, and sustainability strategy, where it will ensure Inclusion of new gender-focused indicators (e.g., political participation, entrepreneurship, gender-based violence statistics) and Commitments from multiple ministries to contribute to annual data updates.



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UNDP established the Woman Peace Mediators

The Objective of the Peace Mediators Network , which includes 32 Iraqi women volunteers from different governorates of Iraq. Which comes within the framework of WPS agenda and efforts to promote a culture of peace and end conflicts at the local level, in line with Iraq Constitution 2005 and the National Strategy for the Empowerment of Iraqi Women 2023-2030 as well as the National Action Plan 1325/2000 , as this network is a qualitative step to enhance the role of women in peacebuilding and conflict resolution in local communities. The goal of the network is not only in conflict resolution, but extends to work to educate the community about the importance of peace and the role of women in making it, which makes it a platform for leadership and positive change, and is in line with the Arab Network of Women Peace Mediators established by the League of Arab States.





Stages of establishing the network 2023-2024

Holding a series of consultative and deliberative meetings, organizing 15 awareness sessions with the participation of 150 Iraqi women from various Iraqi governorates on the agenda of women, peace and security, and the importance of engaging in peacebuilding, organizing an initial specialized training on the roles of women in mediation and negotiation with the participation of 75 women who passed the first stage, and showed a higher commitment and willingness to engage in mediation efforts. Conducting individual interviews by a specialized technical committee. Specialized advanced training for 32 women by the DutchClingdale Institute on mediation and conflict resolution

General principles of the Women Peace Mediators Initiative

This initiative was based on a set of principles taking into account the Constitution of the Republic of Iraq, local laws and procedures, national content and social diversity, in addition to indicators of the reality of Iraqi women, which are:

1. Voluntary and participatory group work
2. High commitment to the principles of neutrality, effective listening to all parties and seriousness in follow-up
3. Inclusiveness and Diversity
4. Cooperation and partnership
5. Training and capacity building

Expected roles of women peace mediators

1. Resolving societal conflicts
2. Promoting a culture of peace
3. Community support
4. Communication with government and organizations

BLOGS:

- Promoting people-centred Policing through Model Police Stations



- Leadership and Women's Empowerment in Iraq's Security Sector



- The Turning Point: Iraq's Leap into the Digital Economy



PEACE

love



United Nations Development Programme
UNDP Iraq
Baghdad, Iraq



<https://www.undp.org/iraq>
© UNDP Iraq 2025

UNDP works with over 170 countries and territories to build a better future. This report highlights the development results UNDP achieved in 2024. With the support of our partners, we have helped millions of people around the world to improve their lives.

