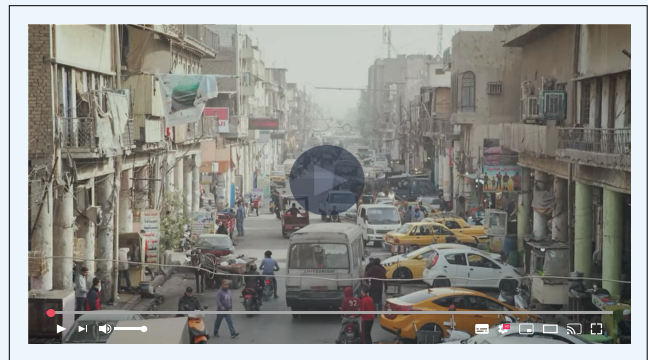




## Iraq Decent Work Country Programme – Two years on

The Decent Work Country Programme was signed in December 2019 between the ILO, the Government of Iraq and social partners to support employment promotion, rights at work, social dialogue and social protection. Two years on, the ILO looks back at some of the progress made in advancing decent work in the country.



### With ILO Support:

#### ► Employment Promotion

- Created over 25,000 working days for host communities, Internally Displaced Persons, and Syrian refugees through the introduction of Employment-Intensive Investment Programmes in cultural heritage and Green Works, equivalent to 400 decent jobs.
- Upgraded public employment services to improve job and skills matching services, career guidance and counselling, as well as on-the-job training opportunities.
- Adopted ILO's Know About Business (KAB) programme in selected Technical and Vocational Training Centres run by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to improve entrepreneurship and business development.
- Launched, through partnership between the ILO and the Central Bank of Iraq, a financial inclusion initiative to provide entrepreneurs with access to financial services to start or develop a business.
- Conducted a nation-wide labour force survey to support evidence-based national employment policies, job creation and decent work, in partnership with the Central Statistical Organization (CSO) and the Kurdistan Statistical Organization (KRSO).

#### ► Social Protection

- Strengthening social protection through an actionable roadmap for 2021-2025, which includes extending the scope of social security to private sector workers.
- A strengthened and fiscally balanced new draft Social Security Law is finalized and in the process of enactment, which extends coverage to the informal economy workers with the potential of reaching three more million workers and their families, and for the first time, introducing new short-term benefits (maternity and unemployment).

#### ► Child Labour

- Developed a Child Labour Monitoring System which identifies vulnerable children at risk of or already in child labour and refers them to relevant actors for support, while addressing the needs of their parents and caretakers to improve employability.
- Established nine child friendly centres and revived already-established centres in Mosul and Dohuk to provide children with support tools to catch up on education and return to school.
- Provided capacity training to government officials and social partners to better address the Worst Forms of Child Labour. Additional technical support provided to improve policies and regulations related to Child Labour.

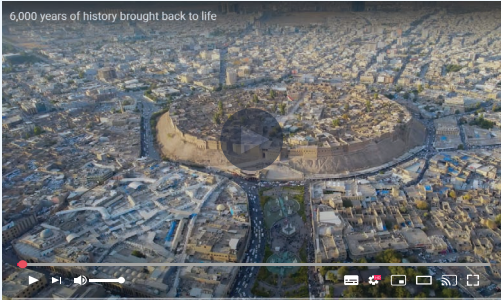
## ► Occupational Safety and Health

- Developed an Occupational Safety and Health national policy.

## ► International Labour Standards

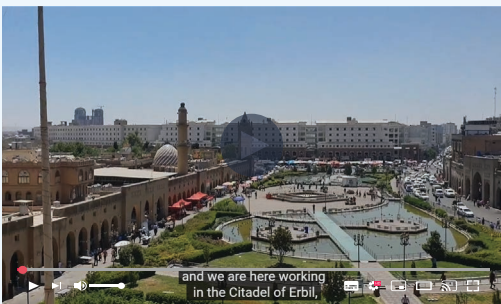
- Ratified ILO Safety and Health in Agriculture Convention, 2001 (No. 184), the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185), and completed the national process for the ratification of the Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183), and Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102).

## Employment-Intensive Investment Programme



### 6,000 years of history brought back to life

The historic Erbil Citadel in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq dates back at least 6,000 years. The ILO joined forces with the EU, UNESCO and local partners to preserve national heritage, while promoting decent work for residents and Syrian refugees through labour-intensive approaches. ILO's Deputy Regional Director for Arab States recently visited the site to inspect ongoing renovation works.



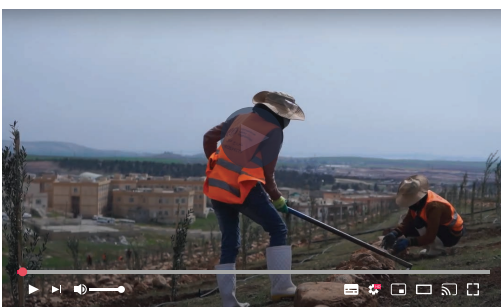
### Preserve Iraq's cultural heritage, create decent work

In the first video story of our ILO in Action series, Chief Technical Adviser, Bashar Elsamarneh, explains how a joint ILO/EU/UNESCO project in Iraq's historic Erbil City is preserving its cultural heritage, while teaching skills and promoting decent work for local people and Syrian refugees.



### A new partnership boosts workers' voices and labour rights in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

The ILO has embarked on the new partnership with the Kurdistan United Workers Unions to improve working conditions and address the needs of workers at Employment Intensive Investment Programme sites in Dohuk.



### ILO and PROSPECTS delegation visit projects that promote decent work in Iraq

Workers, youth and trade union representatives engaged in ILO's Employment Intensive Investment Programme met with ILO and PROSPECTS partners to discuss activities which provide much needed decent work and income for local workers and refugees. Partners also met with youth who completed life skills training with UNICEF and who are now being trained by the ILO on financial education and entrepreneurship, with some youth receiving access to loans that will help them set up or expand their businesses.

## Employment Services

### ILO holds consultative and capacity building workshops to support employment services in Iraq

The events support on-going activities with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Federal Government and of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq to enhance career guidance and job-matching services.



## Entrepreneurship and Financial Education

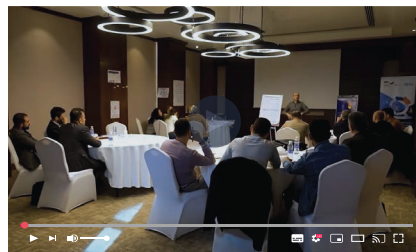
### ILO builds capacities of financial service providers to expand the scope and market of their services to forcibly displaced and host communities in Iraq

The initiative seeks to contribute to devising durable solutions for forcibly displaced and host communities in Iraq through improving their financial inclusion and opportunities for more and better employment opportunities.



#### What is Know About Business (KAB)?

Know About Business (KAB) Key Regional Facilitator, Weal Ghosn, conducted two refreshers "training of facilitators" workshops on ILO's KAB programme for facilitators from vocational training centres run by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. He highlights how the training package can build the capacities of youth and students in entrepreneurship and self-employment.



#### What is Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB)?

Master Trainer Hassan Morahly, who recently conducted a Training of Trainers on ILO's Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) entrepreneurial programme, explains how the training equips trainers to support those who want to start a business or improve an existing one, and contributes to job creation and decent work.



#### Why do we need Financial Education?

Financial Education gives entrepreneurs the essential knowledge, skills and competencies to better manage their finances. Trainer Dilnaz Dersim, who recently trained entrepreneurs, students and government officials on ILO's financial education tools, explains the importance of enhancing people's knowledge and skills in financial management.



**24 participants - teachers and trainers - from Vocational and Technical Training Centres (VTCs) from across 12 governorates in Iraq are attending a comprehensive training on ILO's Know About Business (KAB)**

An ILO-GIZ project entitled "Improved Business Development Services targeting MSMEs and youth for decent work creation" aims to foster an entrepreneurship culture in governmental vocational and technical schools and centers. This is being accomplished by embedding the ILO's entrepreneurship education programme, Know About Business at selected technical and vocational training centers.



**Mapping and assessment of Business Development Service providers in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq**

This document presents an assessment of existing BDS providers in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. It analyses the types of services, their geographic coverage, target clients, and service quality.

**ILO Financial Inclusion Initiative**



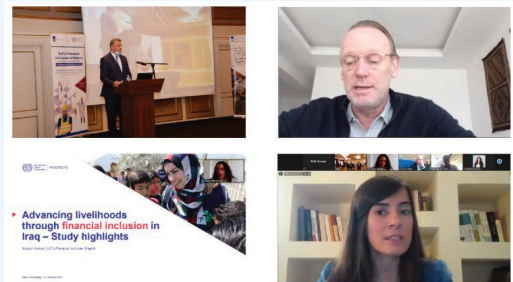
**The first batch of young entrepreneurs receive bank loans, in partnership with Iraqi Middle East Investment Bank**

The ILO has partnered with the Central Bank of Iraq and partner banks to facilitate access to much-needed and affordable financial services for young internally displaced and host community members that will help them develop their enterprises in Dohuk and Ninewa.

**Highlights from 2021**

**ILO and the Central Bank of Iraq launch new financial initiative supporting youth and small and medium enterprises from host communities and displaced populations in Iraq**

With support from the Government of the Netherlands, the initiative provides young women and men and small businesses with access to much-needed financial services that will help them start and develop their own businesses, while addressing barriers to decent self-employment.



**Youth**

**#Learning2Earning**

A delegation from Iraq joins a regional high-level meeting in Jordan on Young People's Learning, Skilling and Transition to Decent Work, co-organized by the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund under the UN Arab States Issue-Based Coalition for Adolescents and Youth.



## Social Protection

### New EU-funded partnership to reform social protection in Iraq

A new project will see the three Iraqi ministries of Planning, Labour and Social Affairs, and Trade work with UNICEF, the ILO and WFP to support vulnerable families in Iraq through a more sustainable and inclusive social protection system.



### ILO and tripartite partners hold consultation on draft social security law in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

During the event, participants examined recommendations based on ILO's legal assessment of the draft law.



### Symposium sheds light on Iraq's social security and protection policies and practices

With the support of the European Union, the symposium was an opportunity to analyse challenges and good practices on key aspects shaping Iraq's labour market and directions for more inclusive social security systems.



### With support from the European Union, ILO, UNICEF, and WFP partner with the Kurdistan Regional Government to reform social protection

The joint programme contributes to social protection reform by adapting, expanding, and innovating social protection responses to address the immediate needs of women, children, their families, and workers in the informal sector in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.



### Media workshop to promote reporting on social policy and economic perspective in Iraq

The workshop is part of efforts to equip journalists with the knowledge to analyse, monitor and evaluate public policies that contribute to the actualization of the right to social protection.



Constructive meeting between the ILO and Members of the Parliamentarian Committee on Labour on the draft retirement and social security law in Iraq. The draft law will bring in several changes that would make the Iraqi social security legislation closer to meeting the minimum requirements of International Labour Standards.



**Roundtable discussion on social policy and economic perspective in Iraq**

The roundtable discussion is part of efforts to enhance social dialogue among policymakers, researchers, and practitioners, allowing them to exchange ideas, knowledge, and experience on social policy in Iraq.



**Addressing the Worst Forms of Child Labour**

**ILO project tackles worst forms of child labour in Iraq**

Akram is 14 and is back at school after having dropped out during the COVID-19 pandemic to help support his family. He and his family were forcibly displaced before the pandemic due to internal conflict in their region in northwestern Iraq.



**ILO-supported child friendly centres established in Mosul for children vulnerable to child labour**

Nine centres support children, through various activities, including awareness raising sessions, informal education, catch-up schooling, and psychosocial support. The centres also follow up on child labour cases, in coordination with facilitators and social case workers, as part of the monitoring system which is being developed under the project.



**ILO and partners hold training on Child Labour Monitoring System in Iraq**

The system, developed with the support of the ILO, supports the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and partners to tackle the worst forms of child labour through identifying vulnerable children at risk of or already in child labour and refers them to the relevant actors to receive the needed support. Through a pilot project, more than 3,500 children are registered and supported so far.



**In Iraq, we raise our hands for a world without child labour!  
#RaiseYourHandForKids**

## World Day Against Child Labour 2022



On this World Day Against Child Labour, ILO and UNICEF call for joint work among all stakeholders to create a protective and inclusive environment for children in Iraq

**Tackling the worst forms of child labour amongst IDPs, refugees, and vulnerable host communities in Iraq**

- ▶ 9 child friendly spaces established to support vulnerable children
- ▶ Over 200 government officials trained on responding to and monitoring worst forms of child labour
- ▶ Over 5,400 children identified and supported through the Child Labour Monitoring System
- ▶ Over 15,000 children reached through awareness raising campaign and material
- ▶ Over 100 teachers trained on addressing the worst forms of child labour
- ▶ Over 50 religious leaders trained on advocating to end child labour

World Day Against Child Labour 2022  
Iraq

## Labour Governance



**Video: Rural women develop skills in Iraq's date palm sector**



**ILO supports rural women in Basra to develop their skills in the date sector**

An ILO capacity building training programme for rural women in Basra seeks to foster skills, entrepreneurship and decent employment in the field of agriculture, funded by the European Union.



**A meeting between the ILO and the Deputy Governor of Basra Mr. Hasan Al Najjar highlighted ILO's Decent Work Country Programme being implemented in Iraq**

The meeting also brought together several local administrations, including the Department of Labour and Social Affairs, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Women Empowerment and local NGOs.





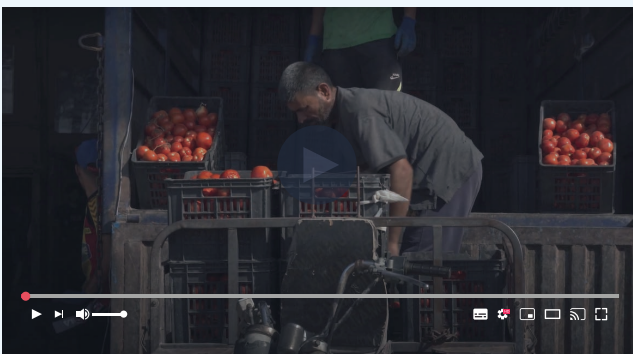
### ILO and tripartite partners review preliminary findings of a study on national regulatory frameworks and structures in Iraq's agriculture sector

The study provides a better understanding of the current legal environment of the sector and requirements for improvements.



### Tailored ILO trainings in Iraq build capacities of inspectors in various fields

In a series of tailored sessions, the trainings targeted heads of social security departments, social security inspectors and labour inspectors from across Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.



### From Farm to Fork: EU Agri-food Business Development Programme

The EU's Agri-Food Business Development Programme - which brings together ILO, FAO, IOM, UNESCO, ITC and GIZ- is strengthening governance and promoting sustainable job creation in Iraq's agri-food sector through activities that address the entire food value chain-from farm to fork.

## Informality and the Labour Market (Highlights from 2021)



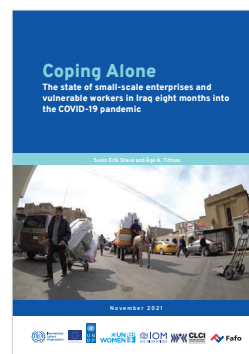
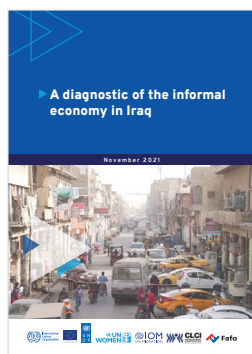
### New report identifies drivers of informality in Iraq's labour market

The report was developed in partnership between the Government, ILO, UNDP, IOM, UN Women, the European Union, the Fafo Institute for Labour and Social Research and the Cash and Livelihoods Consortium for Iraq.



### Multi-media: Diagnostic of Informality in Iraq - 2021

#### See also:





## National Employment Policy and the Labour Market (Highlights from 2021)

### Conference held by ILO and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs highlights key labour market issues in Iraq

The conference, held under the patronage of the Prime Minister, brought together partners from across the spectrum, including representatives from the government, employers' and workers' organizations, key policymakers, UN agencies and development partners, as well as academics.



### Workshop: National Employment Policy to facilitate job creation and decent work in Iraq

Government officials, social partners and other relevant stakeholders discuss development of a national employment policy for Iraq, with ILO support.



## International Labour Standards (Highlights from 2021)

### ILO workshop with tripartite partners sheds light on maternity protection in Iraq

The workshop is part of efforts to support progress towards Iraq's ratification of ILO Maternity Protection Convention, 2000 (No. 183).



### ILO conducts technical workshop for Iraqi government and social partners on International Labour Standards reporting

The workshop provided information and tools to assist the government and social partners in reporting on ILS.



### Iraq ratifies agriculture and seafarers Conventions

Conventions Nos 185 and 184 enter into force for Iraq, respectively, on 21 November 2021 and 21 May 2022.



## Projects



**Partnership for improving prospects for forcibly displaced persons and host communities**



**Creating decent job opportunities through applying Employment Intensive Approaches at Cultural Heritage Conservation activities**



**Improved Business Development Support Services and Entrepreneurship Education targeting MSMEs and Youth for the creation of Decent Work Opportunities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq**



**Employment Policies formulated in Iraq using strengthened LMI systems and LM statistics**



**Social Protection Programme for Iraq: Leveraging Effective Response and Accelerating Reform**



**Improved Business Development Services targeting MSMEs in Iraq**



**Tackling the worst forms of child labour amongst IDPs, refugees, and vulnerable host communities in Iraq**



**Enhancing labour governance, inspection and working conditions in response to COVID-19**



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