

Newsletter

International Labour Organization in Iraq 2021 - A Year in Review



Decent work in Iraq: From conflict to recovery

Iraq and the ILO are implementing the first Iraq Decent Work Country Programme, to promote employment opportunities and decent work principles. The programme focuses on supporting private sector development and job creation; extending and strengthening social protection and addressing child labour; and improving social dialogue to promote rights at work.



Employment-Intensive Investment Programme



Jobs and cultural heritage the focus of new ILO-EU-UNESCO collaboration

With support from the European Union, the programme uses employmentintensive approaches to create decent jobs and upgrade skills and employment services for internally displaced persons, Syrian refugees and host community members, while preserving and rehabilitating cultural heritage sites.



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.



ILO and UNICEF joint initiative supports young engineers to play a key role in promoting Green Works in Iraq

With the support of the Government of the Netherlands, the ILO and UNICEF are working together to build the capacities of selected youth to engage in Employment Intensive Investment Programme interventions aimed at improving the local environment and infrastructure.



ILO employment-intensive interventions promote decent work in Iraq

In Dohuk, Iraq, the ILO and local authorities have launched employmentintensive interventions in water irrigation and waste management. Under PROSPECTS, the schemes support decent employment for Syrian refugees, internally displaced persons and host community members. The majority of participants are women.

Employment Services

ILO and Kurdistan Region of Iraq pledge to support formal employment for forcibly displaced persons and host communities

The ILO and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq sign an agreement to support job creation through the establishment and upscaling of Ministry-run employment service centres.



Entrepreneurship and Financial Education



From skills and learning to decent jobs: ILO holds its first face-to-face SIYB training of trainers in Iraq

The two-week training brought together trainers from a wide spectrum of financial institutions and NGOs supporting vulnerable youth, potential entrepreneurs, start-ups and existing businesses.



Young female entrepreneur strives to transform the medical sector in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

Nasreen Hassan, who recently took part in ILO's Start Your Business (SYB) training programme, explains how her business idea to advance medical engineering can change lives and create employment in Iraq.



ILO and UNICEF collaborate to support vulnerable youth in Iraq to develop skills and transition from training to decent employment, with support from the Government of the Netherlands

Some of the most vulnerable youth are taught life, digital and entrepreneurship skills that are in demand in today's employment market. They have access to employment services and on-the-job training opportunities to help boost their employment opportunities.



ILO, IOM collaborate to improve business development services for small enterprises in Iraq

Under the new collaboration, the ILO has introduced its advanced entrepreneurship and business management training programme, Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB), to selected staff of IOM, to enable them to deliver the programme to IOM-supported existing and potential entrepreneurs.



ILO trains facilitators in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq on its entrepreneurship education programme - Know About Business

The training programme is being delivered under a project which is financially supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and in partnership with the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). It is part of wider efforts by the ILO to foster entrepreneurship education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.



ILO trains trainers on financial education in Iraq

The training equips future trainers with knowledge in financial management topics so they can enhance the financial skills of young people and entrepreneurs, under an ILO initiative to improve livelihoods and self-employment of host communities and refugees in Iraq.

ILO Financial Inclusion Initiative

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.

ILO's Financial Inclusion Strategy in Iraq

Based on a mapping study of Iraqi's financial sector conducted during PROSPECT's inception phase and in close discussions and consultation with the Central Bank of Iraq and the Iraqi Company for Banking Guarantees, the ILO developed an innovative collaboration model in response to the identified challenges in access to finance in Iraq.



Advancing livelihoods through financial inclusion in Iraq

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> The following brief highlights key results from a study conducted by ILO PROSPECTS in December 2019 on advancing livelihoods through financial inclusion in Iraq.



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.



Supported by the European Union, UNICEF, ILO, and WFP hold a landmark social protection workshop with the Government of Iraq to enhance response and accelerate reform

Deputy ministers and senior participants welcomed the close collaboration with international partners and the resulting planned joint programme.



ILO, tripartite partners and parliamentarian committee hold consultation on draft social security law in Iraq

The law is a significant step in extending social security for workers in the private sector, as part of efforts towards establishing a comprehensive social protection system in Iraq.



ILO and constituents discuss social protection reform in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

The meeting focused on efforts to enhance social protection for workers and their families.



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).



Addressing Child Labour



ILO project tackles worst forms of child labour in Iraq

The ILO in Iraq is implementing a programme which tackles the worst forms of child labour amongst Syrian refugees, internally displaced persons and vulnerable host community members, with the support of the European Regional Development Protection Programme for Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq (RDPP II) – a joint European initiative by the Czech Republic, Denmark, the European Union, Ireland and Switzerland.

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

The 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.



Teachers and social workers attend ILO-supported child labour training workshop in Iraq

The training brought together one hundred participants and introduced them to the concept of child labour, including its worst forms, in line with International and national frameworks governing child labour.



ILO and local partners in Mosul discuss collaboration in the fight against child labour in the Ninewa Governorate

Activities are being implemented by the ILO and partners to address the worst forms of child labour among forcibly displaced persons and vulnerable host community members.



Campaign to Tackle the Worst Forms of Child Labour





Iraq launches activities to combat child labour as part of nation-wide campaign

Iraq's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the ILO have unveiled new awareness-raising activities as part of a campaign to tackle the worst forms of child labour in the country.



Children, journalists and local organizations say "No to Child Labour" in Iraq's Kurdistan region

A nation-wide campaign is reaching communities most affected by the rise of child labour in Iraq.

Labour Governance



Ministerial-level constituent meeting discusses ILO activities to promote decent work in Iraq with EU support

The meeting brought together ministers of labour and social affairs, employer and worker representatives, and ILO officials to discuss ILO-led efforts to improve working conditions in Iraq through activities and policy development in the areas of labour inspection and Occupational Safety and Health. It was followed by consultations with stakeholders on developing a National Employment Policy.



Validation workshop: Labour inspection and Occupational Health and Safety in Iraq

The ILO and tripartite partners review policies and profiles on labour inspection and Occupational Safety and Health in Iraq, with support from the European Union.



ILO strengthens capacity of Iraqi inspectors on effective labour inspection procedures

A training workshop for labour and OSH inspectors of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Baghdad aimed to strengthen the capacity of inspections in promoting labour regulations and procedures in Iraq.



ILO holds training workshop on Occupational Safety and Health for social partners in Iraq

The workshop aimed to strengthen the role of employers' and workers' organizations in the field of OSH, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.



ILO holds workshop on Strategic Compliance Planning for labour inspection and occupational safety and health in Iraq

With support from the EU, the workshop is part of efforts to strengthen the labour inspection system in the country and develop a national labour inspection policy and action plan, in line with international labour standards.

National Employment Policy and the Labour Market

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.





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

Publications



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Coping Alone The state of small-scale enterprises and vulnerable workers in Iraq eight months into the COVID-19 nandemic



A diagnostic of the informal economy in Iraq





International Labour Organization

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