



# **IRAQ CRISIS RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMME**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021**








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<b>REPORTING PERIOD</b>	Iraq Crisis and Resilience Programme (ICRRP)
<b>UNDP PROJECT ID</b>	00085156
<b>Project Duration</b>	October 2014 – December 2022
<b>UNDP IRAQ 2020-2024 COUNTRY PROGRAMME PRIORITY<sup>1</sup></b>	Conditions improved for the safe return of the internally displaced persons in newly liberated areas (Outputs 1-5)
<b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>	UNDP
<b>DONORS</b>	Germany Government of Japan The United States of America
<b>PROJECT LOCATIONS (GOVERNARATES)</b>	Anbar, Basra, Diyala, Muthanna, Ninewa and Salah Al-Din
<b>CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS/ DONORS</b>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Germany </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Government of Japan </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  The United States of America </div> </div>	



<sup>1</sup> UNDP Country Programme Document (CPD) for 2020-2024 was approved in February 2020 and ICRRP has aligned to this new CPD starting in 2020.





Men participating in a cash-for-work activity in Heet District. Photo Credit: UNDP Iraq/2021



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*Men participating in a cash-for-work activity in Kanaquin District. Photo Credit: UNDP Iraq/2021*



# ACRONYM GLOSSARY

ABRA	Area-Based Recovery Approach
CPD	Country Programme Document
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ECCI	Erbil Chamber of Commerce and Industry
FFS	Funding Facility for Stabilization
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOI	Government of Iraq
ICRRP	Iraq Crisis Response and Resilience Programme
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, also known as Da'esh
JCC	Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (Kurdistan Regional Government)
JCMC	Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre (Government of Iraq)
KRI	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
KRG	Kurdistan Regional Government
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MHPSS	Mental health and psychosocial support
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
NLA	Newly Liberated Areas
PSS	Psychosocial support
PWD	Person with a Disability
RMA	Rapid Market Assessment
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
MHPSS	Mental health and psychosocial support
MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
MoLSA	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
NLA	Newly Liberated Areas
PSS	Psychosocial support
PWD	Person with a Disability
RMA	Rapid Market Assessment
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WTP	Water Treatment plants







# 2021

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

*A woman who received a business grant in Heet District. Photo Credit: UNDP Iraq/2021*

# PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



## CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

- 63 persons (37% women) including police staff, employees of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC), and the Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women (DCVAW) were trained on gender and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV).
- 15 persons (40% women) including police staff, and employees of the DCVAW and JCC participated in a Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on gender and GBV.



## BASIC SERVICES

- Five water treatment plants were rehabilitated in Basra Governorate. Approximately, 70,000 people (48.5% women) now benefit from access to clean water.



## LIVELIHOOD RECOVERY

- Ten rapid market assessments (RMAs) and value chain analyses (VCAs) were completed enabling an evidence-based approach to design livelihood interventions.
- 13,585 cash-for-work opportunities (37% women, 45% youth, 5% People with Disabilities (PWD)) were created (543,400 working days).
- 1,008 persons (39 % women, 61 % youth, 6% PWD) received vocational training.
- 4,561 persons trained in business skills management (43% women, 36% youth, 15% PWD).
- Out of the 4,561 persons who received business skills management trainings, 3,221 persons developed feasible business plans and received grants support. 1,198 persons (47% women, 30% youth, 10% PWD) received asset replacement grants, 1,417 persons (45% women, 37% youth, 13% PWD) received start-up grants to establish a business and 606 persons (27% women, 36% youth, 10% PWD) received support to scale-up existing businesses.





Farmers who received asset replacement grants participating in a fair in Baiji District. Photo Credit: UNDP Iraq/2021

## 2021 IN CONTEXT

Compared with previous years, 2021 had more favorable socioeconomic conditions, mainly linked to the gradual increase in oil prices. Iraq joined the Paris Agreement and initiated the first steps in transitioning to clean energy, awarding several large contracts to build solar energy plants. During the year, Iraq hosted several meetings between Iran and Saudi Arabia, as well as a regional summit, attended by Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Iraq's role in hosting and facilitating these meetings strengthened its regional influence.

However, the political, economic, security, humanitarian, and development situation in Iraq remained unstable, despite years of effort and significant progress to rebuild and strengthen resilience, following the liberation from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Iraq continues to be one of the most fragile countries globally.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 1.19 million people remain internally displaced, social tensions persisted in some areas, access to basic services and livelihood opportunities was limited, and the pockets of poverty persisted.

The 2021 parliamentary electoral process culminating in low voter turnout, followed by demonstrations in some areas of the country,

including Baghdad, shows the gap in trust between citizens and state institutions.

Iraq's security environment continues to be volatile. Attacks from non-state armed groups using Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and rocket attacks targeting international presence, Iraqi Security Forces, as well as critical infrastructure, including the Baghdad and Erbil international airports, occurred over the course of 2021. More than 600 ISIL-related incidents were recorded in Iraq in 2021.

The latest figures highlight labor force participation at 48 percent for federally administered Iraq<sup>2</sup> and 40 percent for KRI<sup>3</sup>. As of January 2021, in a country of 40.2 million, Iraq's unemployment rate was more than 10 percentage points higher than its pre COVID 19 level of 12.7 percentage points.<sup>4</sup> Unemployment among the displaced, returnees, women, the self-employed, and informal workers remained high. The oil sector, the main driver of economic growth employs one percent of the labor force.<sup>5</sup> Most of the private sector is composed of Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) with few large; mostly family-run businesses (mainly in the construction, telecommunication, and domestic trade sectors). MSMEs face several challenges that limit their ability to absorb the unemployed labor force, such as access to finance and support for business development and expansion.

<sup>1</sup> • Iraq ranks at 152 out of 155 in the Sustainable Security Index, Oxford Research Group, "Sustainable Security Index", 2020, <http://oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk/Pages/Category/sustainable-security-index>.  
• OECD Fragility Report ranks Iraq as one of the 27 chronically fragile countries, OECD, "States of Fragility Report", 2018. <https://compareyourcountry.org/states-of-fragility/countries/IRQ>.  
• The Fragile States Index ranks Iraq in the list of top 20 fragile states, The Fund for Peace, Fragile States Index, 2018, <https://fragilestatesindex.org/country-data/>.

<sup>2</sup> ILO Modelled Estimates 2017, November 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office, "Estimated Impacts of the Twin 2014 Crises in Iraq", 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Iraq Overview: Development news, research, data | World Bank

<sup>5</sup> World Bank, "Jobs in Iraq: A Primer on Job Creation in the Short-Term", 2018.





The dual shock of the COVID-19 pandemic and the fall in oil prices had a direct impact on the economy and the welfare of Iraqis, especially among informal workers and those in self-employment. The contractions in both oil and non-oil sectors caused disrupted employment, increased job losses, and reduced household income. This has contributed to a rise in the poverty rate that was slightly falling in 2017-2018, to reach around 31 percent.<sup>6</sup> . Weak labor demand, while affecting both women and men, disproportionately affects women, as the few jobs that are created are in the oil-related industries which are predominantly dominated by men.<sup>7</sup>

Climate change is increasingly a serious threat and exacerbates the already fragile environmental, security, political and economic landscape. Low rainfall levels and high temperatures caused by climate change have contributed to the depletion of water supplies across the country. Access to water is a significant issue in Iraq. Iraq is currently experiencing one of its worst periods of water scarcity in modern history, with rainfall and water availability in 2021 at the second lowest on record in 40 years.<sup>8</sup> The Iraqi marshlands, considered as largest wetland ecosystem in the Middle East at their peak of extension, continue to shrink, Razazza Lake, Iraq's second-largest lake, is drying up, and water levels in the Tigris are going down rapidly. Drought and environmental degradation are having direct impacts on access to drinking water, agriculture, and food security.

From January to December 2021, the International Organization for Migration (IOM)<sup>9</sup> recorded 120,666 returnees arrived in their area of origin, representing a significant decrease from the numbers recorded in 2020 (235,116) and 2019 (431,130). During the year, Ninewa Governorate accounted for the highest number of returnees (38,418), bringing the total number there to 1,927,572. Additionally, 37,860 returnees also arrived in Anbar Governorate (raising its total to 1,542,492), while 28,962 returnees arrived in Salah Al-Din Governorate (raising its total to 737,706).

From January-February 2021, a significant number of these movements of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) took place following the closure and re-classification of camps in Ninewa, Kirkuk, Diyala, Salah Al-Din, Anbar, Karbala, and Baghdad.<sup>10</sup> Protracted displacement expected to continue over the next year, as barriers to return, local integration or resettlement remains significant and about one percent of IDPs have expressed their intention to return over the coming 12 months.<sup>11</sup>

6 LO, "A Diagnostic of the Informal Economy in Iraq", 2021.

7 ILO, "A Diagnostic of the Informal Economy in Iraq", 2021.

8 United Nations, "Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview", 2022.

9 IOM DTM, "Master List Report 124", October-December 2021.

10 Between October 2020 and February 2021, IOM DTM implemented an Emergency Tracking exercise which tracked the movements of IDPs from camps to other locations following the closure or re-classification of camps. Products are available at <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/ldpMovements#Camp>.

11 United Nations, "Iraq Humanitarian Needs Overview", 2022





# ICRRP

## STRATEGY

Fajer Al-Hureya school in Kubaisa sub-district. Photo Credit: UNDP Iraq/2021



The UNDP Iraq Country Programme Document (CPD) for 2020-2024 reflects changes in the national context, which calls for a gradual shift from immediate response and post-conflict recovery to more long-term growth and stabilization.

The Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS) and ICRRP are the two primary programme platforms to support the Government of Iraq to stabilize the areas that were formerly under the control of ISIL. Both programme platforms are anchored under the Stabilization Pillar of UNDP Iraq's Country Programme framework.

ICRRP's original project document was signed in October 2014, for the period from 2014 to 2018, with a revised project document adopted in May 2019, extending the mandate until December 2021.

Following the Project Board Meeting that was held on 11 February 2021, ICRRP was extended until 31 December 2022.

In line with the revised Project Document, in 2021, ICRRP focused on three key outputs as per its theory of change and results framework;

**Output one** - Strengthened crisis response, recovery, preparedness, and prevention structures;

**Output two** - Improved delivery of basic services in the target locations through rehabilitation of community-based infrastructure; and

**Output three** - Internally displaced people, returnees, vulnerable host communities and Syrian refugees benefit from livelihood opportunities.

Component four on Protection and Component five on Social Cohesion were integrated as cross-cutting themes throughout the first three components.

The ICRRP follows a conflict-sensitive approach throughout its implementation to prevent exacerbating social tensions and enhance social cohesion. For instance, the beneficiary selection process is based on a clear set of selection criteria prioritizing the persons in the most vulnerable situations among the IDPs, returnees, and host communities. In 2021, the ICRRP collaborated with Local Peace Committees, established under the UNDP's Social Cohesion Pillar, to support mainstreaming of the conflict-sensitive approach. For instance, beneficiary selection for livelihoods

support was conducted with inclusivity and transparency based on a clear set of selection criteria. The ICRRP also collaborates with the UNDP's Social Cohesion Field Officers, who work closely with the Local Peace Committees in Anbar, Salah Al-Din and Ninewa. The Officers provide support to ensure enhanced integration of conflict-sensitive approach throughout implementation (e.g., when selecting beneficiaries).

To integrate social cohesion into the livelihood projects, the project also pilots an intervention within its livelihoods project in Tooz Khurmatu. This intervention aims to strengthen social cohesion through a partnership with faith and community leaders as well to improve participatory community stakeholder participation. This intervention will focus on conflict analysis and will identify civil society organizations and local actors to receive capacity building support in conflict prevention.

ICRRP promotes the recovery and resilience of communities vulnerable to multi-dimensional shocks associated with returns and the protracted displacement of Iraqis. This is addressed through integrating crisis management capacity building, rehabilitating basic service infrastructure, and creating income employment opportunities in labour-intensive productive sectors.

The ICRRP implements livelihood interventions in partnership with local and international organizations. The local and international stakeholders are selected based on the comparative advantages of each responsible implementing party such as the long-standing presence in the targeted area.

At the national level, ICRRP works in consultation and collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA). In 2021, in consultation with the MoLSA and its related departments (e.g., Business Incubators, Micro-Credit Fund, and Employment & Survey), the ICRRP initiated an intervention to provide technical assistance to the Ministry. This intervention aims to improve the institutional capacity to create an enabling environment for the growth of small enterprises.

ICRRP remains committed to mainstreaming gender equality at the national and local levels through awareness-raising sessions, promoting equal opportunities, and encouraging women's participation.



ICRRP follows UNDP's multidimensional approach to monitoring implementation. This includes third-party monitoring and monitoring by UNDP staff in the field and by the central programme team.

ICRRP adopts an evidence-based pathway for implementing livelihoods and employment support activities. In 2021, the ICRRP carried out the rapid market assessment and value chain study which informed the beneficiary selection process and identification of priority project interventions.

## **GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE**

With more than 1.19 million IDPs still living away from their place of origin, ICRRP continued supporting the displaced and host communities across Anbar, Diyala, Ninewa, Salah Al-Din, Muthanna, and Basra by rehabilitating the infrastructure for basic services and supporting the livelihoods of vulnerable people.

ICRRP implemented cash for work (CfW), vocational training, asset replacements, business start-up, business scale-up, and job placement projects to support livelihoods and economic recovery in geographical locations that have received the highest number of returnees and IDPs. This assistance complements those supported by the FFS, which continues to facilitate returns by rehabilitating critical infrastructure, providing capacity support to municipalities, building peaceful communities through social cohesion activities, and providing immediate livelihoods opportunities through cash-for-work projects.

On livelihood and economic recovery, the project facilitated recovery and enhanced the resilience of vulnerable communities by providing short- and medium-term cash-for-work employment opportunities for both men and women and strengthening the conditions for SME recovery.

In Basra, ICRRP completed the rehabilitation of five water projects that started in 2020. Needs in Basra are high, resulting from youth unemployment and the degradation of basic services following the pollution of the Shatt-Al-Arab river, a significant source of drinking water for Basra residents. Responding to these needs, ICRRP launched two new water treatment plants in Basra in 2021.





# 2021

## RESULTS

*A man participates in a cash-for-work activity in Heet District. Photo Credit: UNDP Iraq/2021. Photo Credit: UNDP Iraq/2021*



This annual report presents the achievements of the project: Iraq Crisis and Response and Resilience Programme for the period from January to December 2021. Working towards the ultimate project outcome of core government functions and inclusive basic services restored post-crisis for stabilization, durable solutions to displacement, and return to sustainable development, the outputs and activities contributed to the overall goal improved conditions for the safe return of internally displaced persons in newly liberated areas.



## COMPONENT 1: CRISIS PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

### Output 1 Crisis response, recovery, preparedness, and prevention structures strengthened.

The JCC in Erbil and the JCMC in Baghdad were established in 2014 to respond to the ISIL crisis and ensuing population displacement. Since their establishment, the centres have coordinated the response by the government and the international community.

Stemming from the ongoing support provided to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRG)'s, JCC through Crisis Response and Recovery Programming, in 2019 the Gender Equality Strategy developed with ICRRP support was adopted by the Ministry of Interior, demonstrating a significant step by management to solidify the important role of women in crisis response.

Recognizing the need for sustained coordination efforts to support more than 1.19 million<sup>12</sup> Iraqis in protracted displacement, particularly in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq,<sup>13</sup> and the increased likelihood of potential displacement due to climate change-related natural disasters, ICRRP continued to provide targeted training to JCC and JCMC in 2021. Iraq's IDPs, hosted predominantly in Ninewa, Duhok, and Erbil, continue to face challenges to return to their places of origin.<sup>14</sup>

The KRI still hosts a considerable number of IDPs within and outside the camps. The number of reported cases of GBV and Sexual and Gender

Based Violence (SGBV) is reportedly high. In line with the Gender Equality Strategy that was adopted by the JCC in 2019, and to respond to the need to address gender-based violence, ICRRP facilitated four basic GBV trainings and a ToT in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Duhok. Relevant government staff from the Police, Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women (DCVAW) and JCC employees participated in the GBV and SGBV trainings. The broad objective of the capacity building trainings was to enhance the knowledge and skills of crisis response staff to respond to the emerging gender and GBV issues, particularly dealing with survivors of GBV.

The trainings included two components, a) theories and concepts related to gender, and b) GBV with a focus on knowledge, skills and tools for interviewing, investigation, and reporting GBV cases.

### Key Achievements

#### Activity 1.1 Improve national and regional management of sustainable returns, recovery and IDPs

- 63 persons (23 women) including police staff, employees of the DCVAW and the JCC were trained on gender and prevention of GBV.
- 15 persons (six women) including police staff, and employees of the DCVAW and JCC participated in a Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on gender and GBV.



## COMPONENT 2: BASIC SERVICES

### Output 2 Basic service delivery improved for internally displaced persons, returnees, host communities and Syrian refugees, through rehabilitated community infrastructure.

ICRRP supported the rehabilitation and construction of critical infrastructure in areas highly populated with IDPs and refugees and locations with damaged infrastructure during ISIL occupation.

In 2019, ICRRP expanded geographic scope with an agreement to rehabilitate seven compact water treatment plant (WTPs) projects in Basra Governorate. The rehabilitation works started in 2020. The agreement aimed to support the

<sup>12</sup> IOM DTM Iraq, <https://iraqdtm.iom.int/>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/story/23766-Kurdistan-Region-continues-to-host-largest-number-of-refugees,-IDPs-in-Iraq:-JCC-Director>

<sup>14</sup> <http://iraqdtm.iom.int/>



communities to recover from the crisis caused by the pollution of the Shatt-al-Arab river. In 2021, five out of the seven projects were successfully completed and handed over to end users. The newly rehabilitated WTPs benefit 70,000 persons with safe access to clean water.

Further, ICRRP launched two additional WTP projects with a total productivity of 800m<sup>3</sup>/hr. The two projects are steadily making progress. Once completed, the projects will benefit 782,000 residents of Al Alwaan area of Mdayna District and Al-Hussain neighbourhood in Basra City.

The new projects were proposed to the Governorate Office by the district councils. The projects address the needs prioritized by the local authorities in participation with local communities. Before approval by the Governorate, the priorities are reviewed against budgets and technically evaluated by UNDP senior engineers to determine feasibility and criticality.

## Key Achievements

### Activity 2.1 Design and rehabilitate priority infrastructure to enable service delivery

- Five WTP projects in Basra were completed and handed over to end users in 2021. The five projects benefit 70,000 people with access to clean water.
- ICRRP launched two new water treatment plants projects in Hay Al Hussain area of Basra and Al Alwan area in Al-Mudayna sub-District of Basra.

### Water Treatment Plant Projects in Basra Governorate

No	Location	Type of project	Productivity m <sup>3</sup> /h
1	Al Medina sub-district	Rehabilitation of Al-Abara compact water treatment unit	400
2	Shaat-Al Arab district	Supply and installation of new compact water treatment unit in Al Houtah- Shaat-Al Arab District	200
3	Abi Al Khasseb district	Rehabilitation of Hamadan- Balad compact water treatment unit	400
4	Ezaldeen Saleem sub-district	Rehabilitation of Huwair Al-Sada compact water treatment unit	400
5	Al Nashwa sub-district	Upgrade of Al-Dewa water treatment compact unit	100
6	Ezaldeen Saleem sub-district	Rehabilitation Um Al-Shuwayij compact water Treatment Unit	100
7	Deer Al Saleem district	Rehabilitation Al Mhayat & Al Shefiya water compact treatment units	250
8	Hay Al Hussain-Basra City	Upgrade of Al Alwan Compact Water Treatment Unit in Al-Mdayna District	400
9	Al-Mudayna sub-District	Rehabilitation of Hay Al Hussain Compact Water Treatment Unit in Basra	400
Total			2,650





*In 2021, ICRRP completed the rehabilitation of five water treatment plants in Basra Governorate benefiting 70,000 people.  
Photo Credit: UNDP Iraq/2021*





## COMPONENT 3: LIVELIHOODS RECOVERY

### **Output 3 Internally displaced persons, returnees, vulnerable host communities and Syrian refugees benefit from improved livelihood opportunities**

To address the critical gaps in the capacity of local and national stakeholders to increase decent work opportunities, and building on previous successes, ICRRP continued to adopt the three-track approach to livelihoods recovery. The lack of access to meaningful employment is a driver of social tensions in communities hosting a high number of IDPs and refugees.

1. Emergency livelihoods creating immediate income opportunities including cash for work and asset replacement.
2. Local economic recovery for medium- to long-term employment – Vocational and skills training including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) grants, business development skills for recovering enterprises and on-the-job training.
3. Long-term employment creation – Capacity building support to regional chambers of commerce and industry to promote private sector development.

### **Key Achievements**

#### **Activity 3.1 Provide immediate livelihood stabilization through emergency employment opportunities for internally displaced persons, returnees and host communities.**

##### **Cash for work**

ICRRP created 13,585 cash-for-work opportunities to address the immediate income needs of protracted IDPs and refugees following the ISIL crisis, as well as those who faced secondary displacement. Out of the total number of beneficiaries, 5,062, were women, 45 were youth, and 12 were people with disabilities.

All cash-for-work projects were selected in close coordination with local authorities, following technical evaluation by UNDP senior engineers, to address the priorities of the community.

The beneficiaries for the cash-for-work opportunities were identified based on a selection and eligibility criteria through a participatory approach. ICRRP ensured the inclusion of a minimum of 30 percent women among the selected beneficiaries. The selection criteria (socio-economic profiling) included household income level, women-headed household, people with disability, unemployment among others.

#### **Activity 3.2 Support sustainable livelihood opportunities for IDPs, host communities, returnees**

##### **Rapid Market/ Value Chain Assessment**

ICRRP conducted ten RMAs and VCAs in Shirqat, Khanaqin, Tooz Khurmatu, Tel Kaif, Shiekhhan, Al Khalis, Tikrit, and Heet districts.

The findings from RMAs and VCAs were utilized to generate socio-economic insights of the targeted districts, identify the economic sectors in demand and the entry points for (self-)employment creation and sustainable livelihoods.

Using the Area-Based Recovery Approach (ABRA), agriculture was identified as the sector with the highest potential for growth in seven out of eight districts. Agriculture was followed by the service sector (general retail trade, e-commerce, restaurants, electrical repair, barber and beauty salon) in second place in five out of eight districts and the construction sector in third place in four out of eight districts.

The RMAs also provided insights to identify the business skills with high potential to find employment opportunities such as business planning, management and financial literacy, vocational training with special focus on agriculture (modern agronomic practices, farming as a business, post-harvest handling, climate smart agriculture) and general construction, clothing and textile designing, hair dressing, carpentry, handcrafts, metal and aluminium fabrication, auto maintenance, blacksmith and electronical technicians.

The project disseminated the findings of the assessments to various stakeholders including government, non-government organizations, and the Emergency Livelihoods Cluster members through National Emergency Cluster Meetings.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> The assessment can be retrieved from <https://assessments.hpc.tools/knowledge-management>.



## Asset recovery

The findings from the RMAs also generated evidence to understand the most promising business ideas with potential for growth. Accordingly, ICRRP designed a mandatory training package for the potential beneficiaries of start-up grants, asset recovery and scale-up grants. 4,561 persons (1,949 women, 1,638 youth, 671 PWD) participated in the business development training. The trainings were implemented in collaboration with MoLSA's Vocational Training Centres and selected private sector stakeholders (e.g., Smithson Training and Consultancy). The training covered topics such as i) characteristics of successful businesses and start-ups, ii) how to develop a business plan, iii) customer service, iv) sales, v) marketing and branding, vi) accounting & bookkeeping, vii) management skills, and viii) legal requirements for establishing a business.

Based on a vulnerability criteria, and an assessment of the feasibility and sustainability of the proposed business plans, the ICRRP awarded grants to 3,221 persons (1,354 women).

- 1,198 (560 women, 354 youth and 114 PWD) persons received asset recovery support.
- 1,417 632 women, 218 youth and 189 PWD) persons received grants to start-up a business.
- 606 (162 women, 218 youth, 63 PWD) received support to scale-up an existing business.

Further, the ICRRP conducted multi-sector community-based assessments and gender analyses to better understand the community needs and current situation concerning GBV and social cohesion aspects. This helped to put in place the appropriate measures to increase women participation and rely on conflict-sensitive approach throughout the implementation of livelihoods and income generation interventions.

Regular monitoring and mentorship support was provided for the grant beneficiaries to ensure they have required support to establish the business.

## Vocational Training and On-the-Job Training

To address the skills gap identified in the findings of RMAs and VCAs, ICRRP provided vocational

trainings for 1,008 persons (392 women, 619 youth, 57 PWD). The selection of vocational trainings was carried out with special focus on vocations that encourage women's participation.

## Job Placement

ICRRP created an online database with the information of employers willing to host trainees for on-the-job training and job placement. 191 persons (60 women, 119 youth, and 4 PWDs) were selected for job placement based on a vulnerability and eligibility scoring table, including skills match with the sectors identified for placement.

### Activity 3.3: Capacity of public/private stakeholders developed to support livelihood recovery in the target locations

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) provides small enterprise support and development services through its two main sections: i) Micro-Credit Fund for Small Enterprises, and ii) Business incubators. Additionally, MoLSA has a section that is mandated with employment and survey functions to support monitoring of labour market dynamics and the decision-making process related to labour market issues.

In 2021, ICRRP entered into an agreement with MoLSA on technical areas of support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA). The areas of support include institutional capacity assessment for the relevant sections to inform capacity gaps, the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on how to monitor and follow up MoLSA-supported businesses.

Further, ICRRP supported MoLSA in business promotion events. In 2021, ICRRP supported MoLSA's Business Incubators Section to organize an exhibition to showcase 37 innovative small enterprises, supported by MoLSA, to present their experiences and innovative economic ventures. This event provided a platform for MoLSA's directorate across Iraq to exchange good examples of innovative small enterprises and explore the possibilities to replicate in other governorates. Businesses included a plastic and metal waste recycling initiative, a specialized education facility for people with disabilities, and a hydroponics initiative. The business owners and managers from various industries presented their products





Grants Exhibition at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. Photo Credit: UNDP Iraq/2021



and services and participated in peer-to-peer networking as well.

### **Partnership with Private Sector for Vocational Training and Employment**

In 2021, the ICRRP strengthened the existing partnerships and also established new partnerships with the private sector. ICRRP continued the partnership with Toyota Iraq to support youth employment through vocational training in the automobile industry. In 2021, the ICRRP initiated the beneficiary selection process. For support under this initiative, the ICRRP prioritized the selection of IDPs from the Sheikan district in Ninewa Governorate. The selected beneficiaries will receive training in the automobile industry (public relations for two months' course and vehicles maintenance 3 months course including the On-the-Job Training for 1 month). The training will provide the youth with a pathway for long-term job opportunities. The first round of training round will commence in February 2022.

Further, ICRRP collaborated with Smithson Training and Consultancy which is a private sector vocational training provider to conduct business skills management trainings.



# CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

*Compact Water Treatment Plant in Abi Al Kasseb District. Photo Credit: UNDP Iraq/2021*



## CHALLENGES

The COVID-19 global pandemic continued to present public health and socio-economic challenges during 2021. Cases had reached record levels in late July and early August and steadily declined until the end of the year. By 27 December 2021, a total of 2,093,891 COVID-19 infections, resulting in the death of 24,163 individuals had been confirmed <sup>16</sup>. In parallel, around 16 percent of the population had been vaccinated with more than 15 million COVID-19 vaccine doses administered – the second-lowest rate in MENA20. While UNDP field operations have been uninterrupted during 2021, infections among UNDP personnel, movement restrictions on goods and logistical bottlenecks, and preventive safety measures have continued to create challenges in implementing activities in the target areas. This resulted in adjustments of timelines and priorities to minimize delays in project implementation.

The COVID-19 related challenges and supply disruption have added pressure to the procurement process, thereby requiring different and flexible approaches to UNDP's standard workflow. The procurement processes were expedited where possible to ensure awards were made in a faster manner without compromising quality review and due diligence. Additionally, bidders and contractors have continued to raise concerns about increased global market prices for certain commodities, equipment, and materials, which in some instances have affected contractual implementation timelines, especially for electrical and mechanical equipment and longer-term contracts. However, the implementation of bid and performance securities (for bidders and contractors, respectively), the inclusion of damage clauses to protect UNDP from delays, as well as UNDP's flexibility to accept lower -priced brand materials, if the minimum specifications are considered equivalent and met, have proven to be effective mitigation measures. The project implementation faced with various challenges and barriers that impeded the timely completion of some activities and resulted in some timeline deviations against the work plans. The following are the main challenges:

- Adverse security conditions in some areas continued to create difficulties in accessing and implementing activities. In certain instances, such challenging security conditions and limited safety guarantees also resulted in a recalibration of timelines and priority projects. Access impediments include the presence of landmines and other unexploded ordnance (UXO), difficult physical environments, or the obstruction of conflict-affected people's access to services and assistance. In addition, improvised explosive devices (IED) and explosive hazards (EH) continued to be discovered on some project sites presenting threats to the communities and personnel, requiring clearance before to commencement of work on site. Collaboration with the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), local authorities, security forces and local demining actors remained essential to ensure that liberated sites were safe for intervention. The FFS continued to work with EH removal actors, through coordination with the Directorate of Mine Action (DMA) to conduct rapid threat assessments and undertake the issuance of contracts for EH clearance. In some instances, the prolonged IED and EH clearance process also resulted in the readjustment of timelines in project implementation.
- The presence of societal barriers in some areas compromising the engagement of women in project activities, and local political dynamics resulting in community leaders seeking control over activities has for re-election motivations, also called for programming adjustments over the course of 2021.

## WAY FORWARD

As the Iraqi context advances from stabilization to post-conflict development and growth, ICRRP recognizes a critical need to build the skills and capacities of workers and businesses, to ensure a resilient economy. In line with the new UNDP Iraq Country Programme Document (CPD: 2020-2024) and building on the programme's continued success in livelihoods, in 2022, ICRRP will strengthen efforts toward economic development and diversification in Iraq.

<sup>16</sup> World Health Organization (WHO), COVID-19 Iraq portal. <https://covid19.who.int/region/emro/country/iq> (14 February 2022).

At the same time, efforts will continue to achieve the targets that remain from 2021, using a resilience based holistic approach to programming. The ICRRP will continue to address the gaps in basic services, particularly the access to clean water through infrastructure rehabilitation in Basra but the primary focus is gradually shifting to livelihood support and economic diversification.

In line with the programmatic pillars as defined in the new CPD (2020-2024), ICRRP will continue to coordinate with other programmes to ensure complementarity. Under the Stabilization pillar, ICRRP will complement the works of Funding Facility for Stabilization (FFS). Considering the transition of Iraq from the humanitarian phase to development and the increasing issues related to climate change, UNDP will convene a Project Board meeting in 2022 to seek endorsement to extend ICRRP beyond 2022. Moving forward from 2022, ICRRP will focus on two integrated multi-dimensional thematic areas: 1) Resilient livelihood solutions, and 2) Community social cohesion.

ICRRP will aim to;

- Strengthen local government capacities for inclusive green economic development; support innovative solutions through public-private partnerships that stimulate local economic development; provide income and employment opportunities for vulnerable groups and promote social cohesion and environment-friendly business practices, especially in growth-promising economic sectors that have a high impact on employment creation.
- Support resilient, low-emission, development pathways to cope with climate change and environmental risks and exposures. Key elements will include promoting sustainable water governance, sustainable practices of wastewater and solid waste management; improving access to clean renewable energy; and strengthening resilient climate smart agriculture and biodiversity.

The project will continue to focus on persons in the most vulnerable situations, including internally displaced persons, returnees, former fighters, and host communities, with a special emphasis on women and youth.

Geographically, the project will target all governorates of Iraq, with a special emphasis on the most vulnerable localities.

Protection activities will continue to be mainstreamed across all programming, with strengthened efforts to increase awareness of SGBV and the associated risks and opportunities for women participating in economic and social life underlined for all new projects. The role of community members as ‘agents of change’ – and their contribution to sustainability – will be highlighted through the systematic integration of more robust gender and community analysis. Institutional awareness and response will also be a continued focus, strengthened through programming that is designed to improve the knowledge and skills of government partners.







# ANNEX I: RESULTS MATRIX

The below indicators and targets were agreed upon by the ICRRP Project Board on 28 January 2019. Additional targets were developed as a result of the signature of new donor agreements and identified priority needs in the target areas:

## **Intended Outcome as stated in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDA)F/ Country Programme (2016-20) Results and Resource Framework:**

*Country Programme Outcome 3: Conditions improved for the safe return of internally displaced persons in newly liberated areas.*

## **Outcome Indicators as stated in the Country Programme (2016-2020) Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets:**

*Increase in percentage of internally displaced persons returning to liberated areas. Baseline: 10%. Target: 80%. Source: Joint Coordination and Monitoring Centre. Frequency: Annual.*

## **Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan (2018-22):**

*UNDP Strategic Plan (2018-22) Outcome 3: Strengthen resilience to shocks and crises.*

*UNDP Strategic Plan (2018-22) Output 3.1.1: Core government functions and inclusive basic services restored post-crisis for stabilization, durable solutions to displacement and return to sustainable development pathways within the framework of national policies and priorities.*

## **Output Indicators:**

- 3.1.1.2. Displaced populations benefitting from durable solutions, disaggregated by target groups.
- 3.1.1.3. Number of individuals benefitting from jobs and improved livelihoods in crisis or post-crisis settings, disaggregated by sex and other characteristics.

## **Project Title and Atlas Project Number:**

*Iraq Crisis Response and Resilience Programme (ICRRP)/ 00085156*



INDICATORS	TARGET 2021	PROGRESS/RESULTS IN 2021	COMMENTS
Output 1: Crisis response, recovery, preparedness, and prevention structures strengthened			
<b>1.1: Improve national and regional management of sustainable returns, recovery and IDPs;</b>			
(a) Joint coordination mechanism at regional level in place	N/A	N/A	Activity not planned for 2021
(b) # of participating government departments, CSOs and groups across 10 governorates <sup>17</sup>	N/A	N/A	Activity not planned for 2021
(c) Types and frequency of key information products developed and disseminated by the JCMC and JCC to relevant stakeholders	N/A	N/A	Activity not planned for 2021
(e)# of staff from JCMC and JCC trained in identified priority areas	N/A	N/A.	Activity not planned for 2021
(f) # of government offices equipped with ICT equipment	N/A	N/A	Activity not planned for 2021
<b>1.2. Advance early warning and response services available to at-risk and affected communities</b>			
(a) Response capacities and needs identified for Gol and KRG	N/A	N/A	Not planned for 2021
(b) Early warning strategy for Gol and KRG developed	N/A	N/A	
(c)# of Government staff trained on early warning and response	N/A	N/A	
<b>1.3 Strengthen legislative, institutional, and risk-information systems for crisis prevention and resilience building</b>			
(b) Measures taken to develop the crisis management law and implement the National Disaster Management Strategy in Iraq in a gender-sensitive manner	N/A	N/A	Activity not planned for 2021
(c) Crisis management law for the Kurdistan region approved by the Government	N/A	N/A	Activity not planned for 2021

<sup>17</sup> Output indicator in 2019 revised prodoc is # of government departments and civil society organizations and groups participated in returns, recovery and IDP management process coordinated by JCMC and JCC

#### 1.4 Increased participation of civil society including women, youth and professionals in crisis recovery, response, and prevention processes

(a) # of members of civil society organizations oriented by Iraqi Civil Defence and Iraqi Red Crescent on preparedness and response skills (from 2019 onwards)	N/A	N/A	Not Planned for 2021
(b) # of women, men and youth registered as volunteers in KRI and trained in crisis management, recovery, and crisis prevention skills.	N/A	N/A	Activity not planned for 2021

#### Output 2: Basic service delivery improved Internally displaced people, returnees, host communities and Syrian refugees, through rehabilitated community infrastructure

##### 2.1 Design and rehabilitate priority infrastructure to enable

(a)# of communities engaged in basic service needs assessments	2 communities engaged in basic service needs assessments	2 Communities in Basra: - Hay Al Hussain - Al Alwan	Two new water projects were launched in Hay Al Hussain and Al Alwan
(b)# of communities (districts/sub-districts) in project target locations have basic service restored/rehabilitated	5 communities have basic service restored/Rehabilitated	6 communities in Basrah - Al-Abara - Al Houtah - Hamadan-Balad - Al Dewah - Al Mhayata - Al Shefiya	Partially achieved 2 WTP in Basra still under implementation
(c)# (and type) of basic socio-economic service infrastructure projects rehabilitated.	7 basic socio-economic service infrastructure projects rehabilitated  7 water projects in Basra	A total of 5 basic socio-economic service infrastructure projects 5 water projects in Basra	2 WTP in Basra still under implementation
(d) # of people benefitting from basic service rehabilitation	105,000	70,000 people benefitted from basic service rehabilitation (36,050 men, 33,950 women)	2 WTP in Basra still under implementation

#### Output 3: Internally displaced people, returnees, vulnerable host communities and Syrian refugees benefit from improved livelihood opportunities

##### 3.1. Immediate livelihood stabilization through Emergency employment for internally displaced people, refugees, returnees, and host communities

(a)# of men and women benefiting from cash for work (CfW)	9,633	13,585 (5062, women) benefited from cash for work	Exceeded target.
(b)# of men and women benefiting from emergency asset recovery.	N/A	N/A	N/A



### 3.2. Support sustainable livelihood opportunities for IDPs, host communities, returnees, and Syrian refugees

(a) # of livelihoods assessments carried out and used to define project design options	16	10 Rapid Market Assessment and 8 Value Chain Analysis were conducted to assess the current labor market and inform the design of interventions	Target achieved
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#### Additional indicators

# of people provided with business training and SMEs grants, disaggregated by gender	2,233	3,221 (1,354 women) benefitted from business training and SMEs grants	Exceeded target
# of people provided with vocational training, apprenticeship, and technical skills development, disaggregated by gender.	488	1,008 (392 women) benefitted from vocational training, apprenticeship, and technical skills development	Exceeded target

### 3.3 Capacity of public/private stakeholders developed to support livelihood recovery in the target locations

(a) # and type of public/private institutions benefiting from capacity development support	N/A	N/A	N/A
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## Output 4: Protection mechanism strengthened for vulnerable communities specifically women and youth

### 4.1. Expanded legal and psychosocial support services to the affected communities

(b)# of people who benefit from legal aid services under the programme	N/A	N/A	N/A
(c)# of people who have received the Sexual and Gender based Violence (SGBV) awareness	N/A	N/A	N/A
(d)# of SGBV victims and other vulnerable people benefit from psychosocial support services	N/A	N/A	N/A

## Output 5. Strengthened Social Cohesion among local actors and communities

### 5.1. Increase stakeholder knowledge on conflict sensitivity, and strengthened

(c) # of youth trained to monitor triggers of conflict	N/A	N/A	N/A
(d) # of civil society organizations (CSOs) trained to conduct conflict and development analysis studies.	N/A	N/A	N/A

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**5.2 Enhance national capacities to promote peace education**

(a)# of Iraqi public universities engaged in promoting a culture of peace	N/A	N/A	N/A
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(b)# of peace centres established in Iraqi public Universities	N/A	N/A	N/A
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(c)# of academics and university students from Iraqi public universities trained on peacebuilding skills, include dialogue, tolerance and to promote peaceful coexistence	N/A	N/A	N/A
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**5.3 Improve social cohesion among/within target communities through implementation of community-based initiatives**

(a) # of community platforms for dialogue established	N/A	N/A	N/A
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(b) # of community centres supported to maintain their operations and serve as the base for social cohesion interventions in target locations	N/A	N/A	N/A
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(c) # of young volunteers mobilized for promoting social cohesion (SC) identified	N/A	N/A	N/A
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(d)# of civil society organizations (CSO) strengthened to lead the process of social cohesion in target locations	N/A	N/A	N/A
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(e)# of people engaged in community-based project initiatives	N/A	N/A	N/A
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(f) # of advocacy campaigns and community solidarity activities and/or events organized for host communities and displaced population	N/A	N/A	N/A
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(g) # of analysis of community perceptions relating to the value / usefulness of the community-based	N/A	N/A	N/A
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Rehabilitation Al Abara Compact Water Treatment . Photo Credit: UNDP Iraq/2021

# ANNEX II: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

In 2021, ICRRP activities were funded by Germany, Japan, and USAID. The table below provides an overview of the 2021 budget, commitments, expenditure and total utilization.

2021 BUDGET (A)	TOTAL COMMITMENTS (B)	2021 EXPENSES (C)	TOTAL UTILIZED (D=B+C)
USD 56,910,391.96	19,547,660.43	32,862,470.57	52,410,131.00

COMPONENT	2021 EXPENSES	COMMITMENTS AS OF 31-DEC-2021
Basic Services	2,854,977.26	1,313,403.34
Crisis Response and Coordination	0.00	0.00
Livelihoods	28,608,479.08	18,113,447.28
Social Cohesion	0.00	0.00
PROJ MGT	1,399,014.23	120,809.81
Grand Total	32,862,470.57	19,547,660.43



# ANNEX III: RISK MATRIX

#	DESCRIPTION	TYPE	PROBABILITY
1	Continued anti-government protests causing political and social instability which is hampering project implementation	Political security	P = 3 I = 5
2	Tension between returnees and host communities in in ICRRP target areas adversely impact project implementation.	Security	P = 3 I = 4
3	Lack of programme ownership by national partners may impede project activities and reduce the sustainability of project results.	Strategic Operational	P = 2 I = 4
4	Lack of environmental safeguards in project interventions resulting in damage to natural habitats	Strategic Environmental	P = 3 I = 4
5	Security conditions preventing UNDP staff, consultants and responsible parties from working in the target locations	Operational	P = 4 I = 4
6	Women's participation in the labour force is limited due to social cultural locations	Operational	P = 3 I = 3

COUNTER MEASURES / MANAGEMENT RESPONSE	MONITORED BY	DATE IDENTIFIED AND STATUS <sup>18</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regularly monitor ongoing political situation</li> <li>Evolve appropriate strategies to deal with the changing context</li> <li>Maintain close contacts with provincial and local authorities in the target areas.</li> </ul>	Programme Manager, Livelihood Team	Date identified: Q4- 2019 Status: Unchanged Political events unfolding and situation continues to be volatile.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out needs assessments in affected areas throughout the project duration, using different means.</li> <li>Ensure a strong focus on social cohesion in all project components by maintaining a balance in beneficiary selection across different social segments.</li> <li>Promote community participation through the engagement of civil society.</li> <li>Use UN defined criteria for beneficiary selection and ensure a transparent selection process.</li> <li>Use conflict analysis during the planning, implementation and monitoring of activities</li> <li>Ensure close dialogue and consultation with the government and other partners to mobilize and maintain support for project interventions.</li> </ul>	Programme Manager, Livelihood Team	Date identified: Q1-2018 Status: Reduced The situation differs from location to location. In some locations, the tensions do exist. The Programme has targeted all segments of society (returnee, IDPs, refugees, resident/host communities) in order to minimize tensions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closely involve government partners (GoI and KRG) throughout the project implementation. The Project will build on key national strategies, including the national reintegration strategy.</li> <li>Make the authorities accountable for project results and achievements through participation in decision making on identification and prioritization of interventions and support to implementation</li> </ul>	Programme Manager UNDP Senior Management	Date identified: Q-1-2018 Status: Reduced The Project continues to ensure that all project interventions are identified with active participation of national stakeholders.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct social and environmental screening for each Component of ICRRP</li> <li>Environmental screening checklists and safeguards to be factored into all construction/rehabilitation work that will be undertaken. Reflect requirements from the BoQ/TORs stage, procurement phase, right through to completion of activities</li> <li>Design livelihood activities which support sustainable practices and protection of natural resources.</li> <li>Address triggers of social conflict related to natural resources under the social cohesion activities</li> </ul>	Programme Manager	Date identified: Q1- 2018 Status: Reduced The Engineers and Basic Service Team continues to ensure the environmental screening checklist are applied from BBQ stage, procurement phase to implementation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work closely with respective government partners, NGOs and responsible parties to identify alternative strategies to ensure timely implementation and achieve project objectives.</li> <li>Regular monitoring of security situation in each implementation location.</li> <li>If required, identify the need for 3rd party monitors, to supplement monitoring efforts.</li> </ul>	Programme Manager Component Leads	Date identified: Q1 -2018 Status: Reduced The security situation in the target governorates remains relatively stable, despite the ongoing political turmoil in other parts of the country
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a gender mainstreaming strategy to integrate gender across all interventions of the ICRRP</li> <li>Conduct regular gender analysis and reviews of the progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in programming.</li> <li>Sensitize the partners and responsible parties to take into account gender considerations</li> </ul>	Programme Manager Gender Officer	Date identified: Q1-2018 Status: Reduced Technical capacity for providing gender advisory has been reinforced with the recruitment of a Gender Support Assistant, as well as the regular sensitization of the Project Team.





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