

Frequently Asked Questions

UNDP - Shell Iraq Partnership Agreement



WHAT IS THE UNDP – SHELL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT?

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and SHELL Iraq partnership agreement will implement a range of development projects in Southern Iraq.

This partnership aims to increase the number of local area development activities, promote local small and medium enterprises and provide vocational training to respond to the private sector's needs.

WHICH AREAS DOES THE UNDP - SHELL PARTNERSHIP COVER?

This partnership, the first between UNDP Iraq and the private sector, has two main components.

The first includes vocational training to equip existing and potential Iraqi workers to respond to the needs of the oil and gas sector. It also includes providing support for the establishment and development of micro, small and medium enterprises.

The second area includes a range of programmes to improve the quality of basic services for the residents of Basrah province. This will be achieved through more inclusive and participatory planning processes, where local communities and civil society organisations are able to identify their own development, needs and priorities.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO IMPLEMENT THESE PROJECTS AND WHY?

This partnership will be implemented in Basrah, a potentially wealthy economy with some of the largest oil reserves in the world and the country's only port. Basrah's wealth of oil reserves, however, has not trickled down to citizens who remain one of the poorest in Iraq where poverty rates are 23% compared with 32% at the national level.

WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS PARTNERSHIP?

Local communities and the owners and staff of small and medium businesses in the southern areas. Through building the capacity of local enterprises, the underemployed, the unemployed and new job seekers will benefit, given that there are 450,000 of those entering the labour market every year through the Training Centre in Basrah City. The partnership will work jointly with the local authorities to strengthen the private sector in diverse local industries.

WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THIS PARTNERSHIP?

The duration of this UNDP- Shell Iraq partnership is for four years. It will start in 2012 and end in 2016.

WHY IS UNDP ENGAGING IN

THIS PARTNERSHIP WITH SHELL?

UNDP believes that such partnerships, with the local authorities, are fundamental for the effective implementation of our development programmes in Iraq. Partnering with the private sector, particularly with international oil companies who are the largest investors in the country, is key to capacity building, generating employment and building strong and competitive inclusive markets.

This partnership is part of UNDP's support for the local network of the Global Compact, which was launched in Iraq in October last year. It attempts promoting responsible business practices in the areas of human rights, labour standards, environment and anti-corruption. Shell Iraq is a founding member of The Global Compact, and these types of partnerships provide an additional framework for Shell and other international oil companies who are operating in Iraq to increase their Corporate Social Responsibility obligations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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