



Project funded by the European Union

FAST FACTS

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UNDP Iraq

EU/UNDP Innovation for Development Initiative

Early 2016, the European Union (EU) adopted the UNDP Innovation for Development Initiative in Iraq, under the Local Area Development Programme (LADP). The EU/UNDP Initiative aims to support the role of young people in entrepreneurship and innovation focusing on service delivery and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNDP started the Initiative in 2015, as a pilot project, in partnership with Zain Telecommunication Company, in order to promote business and social entrepreneurship, through methods such as Design Thinking and the Business Model Canvas, in addition to volunteerism amongst young people in Iraq.



Volunteers from different governorates trained to support the Initiative, Erbil. Photo: UNDP Iraq/2016

The Initiative came in response to the National Human Development Report 2015 and in line with the UNDP Youth Strategy (2014-2017) that highlighted the importance of economic empowerment and capacity building for youth in the fields of entrepreneurship and innovation.

The Initiative now complements the work of LADP that provides direct support to twelve Governorates to

MATTERS OF FACT

- **100** young potential entrepreneurs (%65 males, %35 females) trained on innovation skills in 2015
- **25** out of 800 applicants trained to support the implementation of the Innovation for Development Initiative
- **11** potential partnerships between young entrepreneurs and the private sector announced during the 2015 Innovation for Development Forum
- **10** activities and workshops planned for the remainder of 2016
- **\$300,000** is the total budget of the Initiative

improve sector-wide planning and implementation, strengthen budget execution and service delivery, enhance coordination between central and governorate levels and increase the participation of communities in local development.

Engagement

The Innovation for Development Initiative is youth focused and advocates partnerships with the private sector. As such, young Iraqis and private sector representatives were engaged in all stages of the project, from planning to implementation.

A youth-led social media forum, [Youth Café](#), was developed in 2013 as an online outreach and mobilization tool. An Innovation Volunteers Team was created, trained, and currently works on planning and organizing activities. Comprised of %55 females, the 25-member team divided work responsibilities amongst 5 sub-teams: Trainers, Logistics, Documentation, Photography and Graphic Facilitation.

The Initiative further supports training of youth on entrepreneurship methods and models, and team

building. Additionally, it organizes annual forums and facilitates networking of youth with the private sector.

Key Results

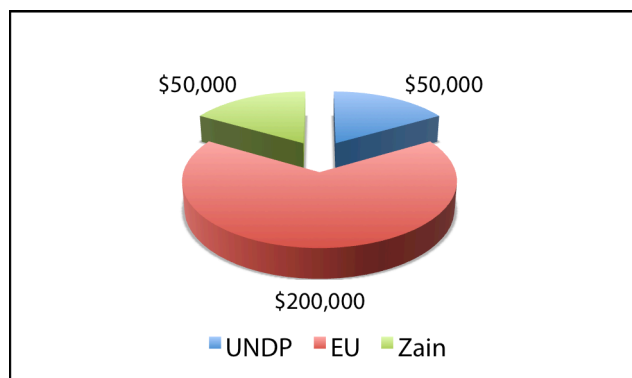
In partnership with the EU and Zain, the Innovation for Development Initiative achieved the following:

- Organization of the Innovation for Development Forum 2015 in Baghdad. The number of participants exceeded 300, including representatives of both the private and public sectors.
- 11 potential partnerships were announced during the 2015 Forum. 17 out of 68 teams were selected to present their innovative proposals to an evaluation committee whose members represented the private sector, the Federal Government and non-governmental organizations.
- Three workshops were organized in Baghdad, Basra, and Erbil to build capacity of dozens of young people.
- 100 young potential entrepreneurs, %65 males, %35 females, were trained on innovative approaches to development.
- Online members of the [Youth Café](#) have reached 20,000.

Funding


With a budget* of US\$200,000, the Innovation for Development Initiative is now being funded by the EU.

In 2015, the total budget was \$100,000 equally funded by UNDP and Zain.



*UNDP Figures as of August 2016

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About UNDP Iraq

Present in Iraq since 1976, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is committed to supporting the Government and people of Iraq during their transition towards reconciliation, reform and stability. UNDP's support ranges from promoting emergency livelihoods and community dialogue in districts impacted by the crisis, to prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) amongst Syrian refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs), to helping stabilize newly liberated areas through its Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization (FFIS). Further support includes inclusive area-based planning, governance reforms, decentralization, rule of law, and environment and climate change.



Workshop on innovation in Baghdad. Photo: UNDP Iraq/2015.

UNDP is a major partner contributing to democratic process and good governance in Iraq. UNDP has provided technical assistance in support of the 2010 national Parliamentary elections and 2013 provincial elections. Its support to the Government, at both Federal and Regional levels, has been instrumental in prioritizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and safeguarding development gains achieved. UNDP is further committed to help the country to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Well positioned with a track record in different areas, UNDP stands ready to move towards a cutting-edge resilience agenda with a gender-dimension and a specific focus on economy, social cohesion and national reconciliation, in order to help the people of Iraq recover and build a brighter future.

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