

DEVELOPING THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT'S KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE IN MIGRATION MANAGEMENT (IMED)

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVE

IMED aims to engage key decision makers from multiple ministries in Iraq in forging solid and future-oriented migration partnerships with European counterparts (with initial focus on Switzerland), ultimately bringing Iraqi governmental institutions on the same wavelength as European counterparts when it comes to migration cooperation.

Funded by the Switzerland's State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).



The total project budget is EUR 303,280



Total implementation period of 12 months (15 November 2020 – 14 November 2021).

The Project facilitates more constructive, efficient and action-oriented migration dialogue for the future. The long term aim of fostering deeper and wider European engagement with Iraqi decision makers through Swiss support requires upgrading the expertise, knowledge base, and technical expertise of key decision makers within the Iraqi Government sector; hence the initial focus on educational and training elements.

The project's specific objectives are as follows:



BENEFICIARY MINISTRIES

**The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA);
The Ministry of Interior (Mol);
The Ministry of Migration and Displaced (MoMD);**

**The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA);
The Ministry of Planning (MoP).**

A CORE GROUP, comprising four senior officials from each of the five ministries, serves as the primary beneficiaries under the Project. Their engagement in the Project aims at enhancing the knowledge base, developing the technical expertise of key Iraqi ministries in the field of migration; and fostering standards and best practices in migration governance in Iraq.

As a result, the project will facilitate and strengthen the institutional capacities of the Government of Iraq in addressing its migration challenges, as well as developing coherent and sound migration policies.

Activity breakdown:

1. Activity set 1: The delivery of **expert training workshops** (WS) on the following thematic areas:

- (WS 1): Return and reintegration;
- (WS 2): Irregular migration; trafficking and smuggling;
- (WS 3): Migration and development (including diaspora engagement and private sector engagement);
- (WS 4): Border management and security;
- (WS 5): Asylum and refugees;
- (WS 6): Labour migration.

2. Activity set 2: The facilitation of **knowledge exchange and awareness-raising** for 10 senior Iraqi officials (out of the core group of 20) in migration governance through the implementation of a study visit (SV) to Switzerland, with direct substantive focus on the thematic areas of the project, as follows:

- (SV 1): Fundamental principles of sound migration management at Governmental level, including asylum procedures, integration of asylum seekers, as well as processing of returnees; amongst other areas of relevance.

3. Activity set 3: Upholding basic migration governance standards through the formulation, endorsement, and application of **Standard Operating Procedures** (SOP) on developing a “whole-of-government approach” to migration management in Iraq. These shall also include basic principles on developing long term migration partnerships with international actors of relevance, including Switzerland and EU Member States. Activity set 3 shall be conducted in the form of technical seminars (TS), as follows:

- (TS 1): Developing SOPs on a “whole-of-government-approach” to migration management in Iraq;
- (TS 2): Identification of specific areas of technical expert assistance to the core group based on demand in certain areas. In addition to the seminar itself, this will include the allocation of expert video conference calls (seminars) with the core group.