

Facilitating the return

Improving government institutions to deliver basic infrastructure to stimulate returns

The challenge

In 2014, the Islamist terrorist organisation 'Islamic State' (IS) managed to extend its sphere of influence across much of Iraq. After the occupation of Fallujah and Ramadi, IS also took Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, in summer 2014. The terrorist attacks and rule of IS forced more than three million civilians to flee within their own country. In addition, 250,000 refugees came from Syria to Iraq.

The quick territorial gains and the massive human rights violations by IS led to the formation of an anti-IS coalition in September 2014. The alliance consists of 67 countries and aims to fight IS in Syria and Iraq. The stabilisation measures within the coalition are coordinated in a stabilisation task force under the leadership of the Iraqi government. Germany is co-chair of this task force. It supports the Iraqi government in stabilising the areas reclaimed from IS and helps enabling the return of internally displaced persons. The goal is to contribute to the stabilisation of areas liberated from IS.

The living conditions in these areas are precarious and the public infrastructure is largely destroyed. Besides the reconstruction and rehabilitation of houses, major challenges are the provision of basic public services (such as water, electricity, sanitation, health care, education) as well as security and livelihoods.

Our approach

The project contributes to the stabilisation process in the areas liberated from IS by supporting Iraqi authorities to increase their abilities to deliver services, which foster the return of internally displaced persons. Through the provision of heavy machinery and equipment, small-scale rapid infrastructure and capacity building measures, the project team supports the Iraqi authorities to improve their ability to act in the

liberated areas. GIZ's main partner is the National Operations Centre (NOC).

The project's strategic approach features two interrelated components:

Firstly, the project supports the 'Stabilisation Task Force'. This task force brings together key government entities involved in stabilisation efforts, such as the National Operation Center (NOC), the Reconstruction Fund for Areas Affected by Terroristic Operations (REFAATO), the Ministry of Planning and the five governorates of Anbar, Diyala, Nineveh and Salah ad-Din, with the international donor community and main implementation bodies such as the United Nations.

Secondly, the project focuses on improving the living conditions of the population and returnees in the liberated areas through a 'Rapid Response Mechanism'. This mechanism provides heavy machinery and equipment such as water tanks, excavators, waste trucks, generators and transformers to local and regional government bodies, and undertakes rapid small-scale infrastructure and training measures in particularly deprived areas.

Project Name	Support to the Stabilization Process in Iraq
Commissioned by	German Federal Foreign Office
Project Region	Anbar, Diyala, Nineveh, Salah ad-Din
National Partner	National Operations Centre (NOC) of the Iraqi Government in Baghdad
Duration	03/2016 – 12/2020

Our services

All activities are closely coordinated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international partners, in particular with an eye towards the post-stabilisation period of Iraq.



Photo left: Mobile clinic in Salah ad-Din.

Photo right: Treatment of a patient at a mobile clinic in Salah ad-Din.



Photo left: Handover of material goods to the governorates of Anbar, Diyala and Salah ad-Din.

Photo right: Mobile Excavator in Mosul repairing the infrastructure.

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To date, the governorates of Anbar, Diyala, Nineveh and Salah ad-Din have been provided with about 350 heavy machinery (water tanks, excavators, bulldozers, waste trucks) as well as generators and transformers. This enabled government offices to remove rubble, thus starting the reconstruction process and the re-establishment of their service provision.

The project particularly supported remote areas close to the Syrian border, which are hard to reach, such as Ba'aj in Nineveh and Al Quaim in Anbar. To provide these communities with an initial basic infrastructure to restart their lives, schools and water networks were repaired on a small-scale. In addition, waste collection has been improved in many neighbourhoods in Nineveh through the provision of waste trucks, waste containers and equipment for waste workers.

In order to ensure that government offices can independently take care of maintaining the provided machinery and reconstructed infrastructure, the project supports local technicians with specific trainings. In addition, mechanics are equipped

with necessary workshop tools, and key infrastructure departments receive plotters and printers to be fully able to take over their functions again.

For an improved basic health care, five mobile field clinics were handed over to the Iraqi partners and placed in remote areas, and 19 generators were distributed to health centres across the governorate of Salah ad-Din. Furthermore, the city of Mosul will receive two mobile hospitals, providing medical services in the short and medium term while rehabilitation of health facilities in the city is ongoing.

Stabilising the areas liberated from IS for the safe return of the population is only possible when the security situation in these areas is improved. A police force with a high visibility in local communities, and the ability to directly engage with and support citizens, is a prerequisite to achieve this. To improve the capacity of local police officers to deliver the necessary services to their communities, the project equipped more than 40 police stations with basic furniture such as desks and chairs.

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