

# Supporting Decentralisation and Local Governance (DLG)

Strengthening of public employees' competences at the national and sub-national levels including enhancing multi-level cooperation and civil society participation

## The challenge

Decentralisation, enshrined in the 2005 Constitution and Law 21 (Law on Governorates Not Incorporated into a Region) of Iraq, has so far only been implemented to a limited extent. In the context of war and conflict, political attention is focused on stabilising the country.

The traditionally centralised state structure of Iraq has very limited experience concerning the tasks and roles of different levels in public service delivery. There is no clear orientation as to which tasks, decision-making powers, human and financial resources should and can be transferred to the sub-national level (Governorates and Districts). Officials and mandate holders at the sub-national level, civil society organisations and citizens lack information on the state of the implementation of decentralisation and participation opportunities.

## Our approach

The project aims to develop the capacity of key actors at national and sub-national levels to implement decentralisation in a citizen-oriented manner. This is firstly done through raising awareness about decentralisation and developing capacities of public employees at the central level in the partner structures. Three new curricula were included into the training offers for public employees and trainers are trained on these new courses. Secondly, organizational units within local public administrations ('local budget sections') were activated and qualified in 14 Governorates.

Program Name	Supporting Decentralisation and Local Governance (DLG) in Iraq
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project Region	14 Iraqi Governorates and various Districts
National Partner	Ministry of Planning (MOP) Iraq and the Higher Commission for Coordination among the Provinces (HCCP)
Duration	11/2017 – 07/2022

Micro-projects in selected Districts of 14 Governorates are implemented while considering local resources, tackling citizens' needs and generating revenues that remain on the subnational level.

Finally, local civil society is empowered through communication tools and participatory mechanisms that enhance citizen engagement in local planning and development. The needs of the citizens were surveyed in 14 Governorates with a focus on marginalized groups in corporation with the Central Statistical Organization. In 126 dialogue events, the needs of citizens (in particular: women, youth and people with special needs) were debated together with the responsible District authorities.

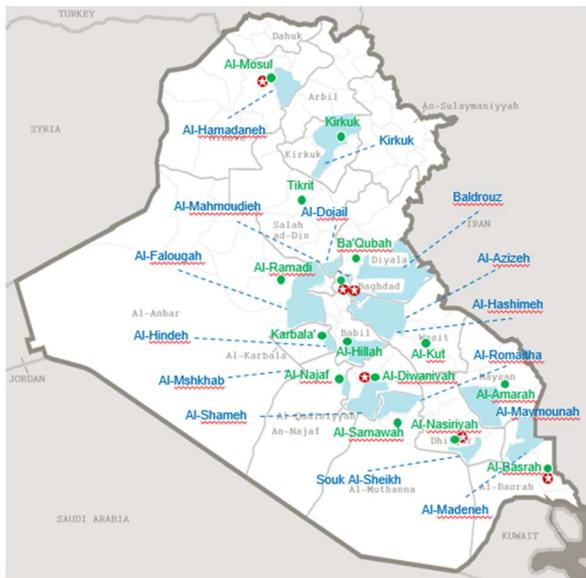
Through technical advisory, for example trainings on decentralisation and local planning, the project supports the Higher Commission for Coordination among the Provinces (HCCP) in monitoring the progress on decentralisation as well as Governorates in improving their planning capacities.



Photos: More than 700 executive staff and civil society representatives were trained in decentralization reforms, feasibility studies, local budget, negotiation and conflict resolution, social accountability and gender.

The projects’ multi-level and all-of Iraq approach interlinks its activities with different administrative levels and paves the way for an integrated development cycle that starts with local resources and citizens’ needs at the local level. It also reflects the strategic priority of the Iraqi decentralisation process in enhancing local revenues generation to reduce the financial dependency on the national budget. Piloting micro-projects in Districts build the institutional confidence for a widespread advancement of decentralisation and local development measures that reach the citizens with improved service delivery.

The engagement map below shows the Districts (in blue) and the Governorates (in green) where project activities are being implemented.



*“So far, in Iraq one has heard of decentralization only through the Constitution and laws. The establishment of units to maximize local financial income and the implementation of micro-projects that generate revenues and provide services for the citizens in the Districts, is the first practical step towards decentralisation.”*

Head of Al-Hashemiya district (Babel Governorate)

*“With the implementation of revenue-generating microprojects (MRGPs), the MoP and the GIZ program tackle all the nodes that hinder decentralisation in Iraq, particularly regarding its financial dimension and the complexity of regulations. The MRGPs are not only projects that serve citizens’ needs but a pioneer model with great value for learning and adjusting future decentralized planning.”*

Deputy Minister of Planning

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany  
GIZ Office Baghdad  
Iraq  
www.giz.de  
As at May 2022

Program Manager Christian Grünhagen  
GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.  
On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic  
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)  
In cooperation with Iraq’s Ministry of Planning and the Higher Commission  
for Coordination among the Provinces (HCCP)