



هجرة آمنة

HIJRA AMINA

SAFE MIGRATION FOR IRAQ



THE IRAQ-EU-IOM JOINTLY RUN ADVANCED ASSISTED MIGRATION INITIATIVE

FLASH REPORT



“Every one of you is an ambassador. Because when you have the skills to do your job in border management properly, you become an ambassador. You give the first impression of Iraq” - John Linehan, Border Management Expert

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Mol officials make strong headway toward the development of a new border management training curriculum for Iraq

On the 3rd and 4th March 2015, the EU funded HIJRA AMINA programme held a practical and constructive workshop in Erbil as a preliminary step towards the development of a training curriculum for the Ministry of Interior (Mol) aimed at further enhancing capacities in migration and border management in Iraq.

Facilitated by the Senior Immigration and Border

Management (IBM) Specialist for MENA, Donato Colucci and supported by an international expert, the workshop demonstrated strong commitment from both the Central Government and Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to consolidate a border management training strategy in Iraq, with the view to consider a common way



“We, as trainers, must first understand why we are giving a certain training – we must have clear goals and a framework to achieve these goals – only then can we develop the capacities of the trainee” - Basra ITC



“Humanitarian Border Management approach is adopted during a migration crisis, when resources should be dedicated to the most pressing needs of saving the life of the affected population. This may include prioritizing health over required ordinary travel documentation” - Donato Colucci, IBM Regional Thematic Specialist

forward especially in the face of the migration crisis.

The workshop engaged participants from the whole of Iraq - including Baghdad, Basra, Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, representing Mol's Directorates of Residency and Border Points, Border Guards Command, and the Immigration Training Centres (ITCs) which are the principle training institutions of Mol. Together, they discussed the successes and challenges of the Ministry's current training curriculum, as well as the obstacles border officials face in the current migration crisis and in border management as a whole.

In breakout sessions, participants grouped according to their geographical locations in order to better identify the diverse training needs tailored to their specific conditions. The importance of updated information for document examination techniques was emphasized by all, as was the need for a coordination mechanism between the regional ITCs that will oversee curriculum development and maintain consistency in the training received by border officials throughout the country. In interactive group discussions, participants also agreed that levels of training – from basic to advanced – need to be better detailed and more technical. Such productive discussions will ensure that the new curriculum is tailored according to specific needs of Iraq's stakeholders in border management.

IOM's Humanitarian Border Management (HBM) concept was introduced and this opened positive and fruitful discussions. HBM is presented as an efficient tool to



“The training of trainers held by HIJRA AMINA in November 2013 was like no other training we had ever been given. We learnt to clearly distinguish between commercial paper and security paper.”
- Sulaymaniyah ITC

assist governments to manage their borders in order to guarantee the human rights of migrants while respecting national sovereignty and security. This session resulted in enthusiasm to further explore the incorporation of HBM practices into the new curriculum, as participants explained the challenges and lack of clear procedure for border officials in coping with large influxes of IDPs in the current migration crisis and in addressing the significant increase in humanitarian aid.

IOM's role in Iraq is to address the dual priorities of responding to the humanitarian crisis in the country while concurrently developing the strategic migration and border management capacities of government stakeholders. The training curriculum will meet these priorities by harmonizing national efforts in order to most effectively build the foundational knowledge required of the border officials responsible for controlling Iraq's 22 border points and the areas in between.

The MoI officials at the workshop expressed a clear and feasible way forward for the training curriculum that, once fully developed, will be implemented throughout the whole of Iraq, including the ITCs. The consolidated training curriculum will address the challenges of the complex migration patterns in Iraq and thus contribute to ensuring control of Iraq's border is maintained, through providing the necessary knowledge, skills and tools to further enhance migration and border management.

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