



# Community Policing Model for Iraq

November 2016

The IOM Community Policing (CP) model for Iraq aims at bringing together community members and law enforcement officials to discuss security issues that most concern the communities.

This is part of the IOM Iraq integrated approach to community stabilization which entails a combination of bottom-up and top-down interventions; bottom-up, working with vulnerable communities, delivering a comprehensive stabilization package that addresses social services and basic infrastructure, security, social cohesion, and economic opportunities and top-down, working with government authorities at all levels and providing technical support to develop appropriate operational systems and mechanisms in order to respond to the acute security situation in Iraq

The CP approach focuses on finding solutions that can contribute to preventing crimes, and refers cases to civil society networks or governmental bodies that specialize in particular areas of intervention such as education, health and labour among other areas. Should a crime take place, CP members can refer the case to the relevant law enforcement agency for intervention, thereby contributing to the stability of their own communities. Through this action by the Community Policing Forum, tensions within the community are defused.

In order to enable the CP to fulfil its role, IOM is supporting infrastructure development and providing equipment, training and assistance to the Community Police Forums.



Kurdistan Region of Iraq Community Police Department officials test trucks handed over by IOM in Erbil, September 2016.

The Community Police Forum is understood as a “working group” and a platform where discussions can take place, contributing to easing tensions among different actors, including between security service providers and citizens. The Forums provide practical solutions that may differ from one community to the other, based on the identified priorities. In this regard, the Community Policing Forum works as an effective tool for security governance at the community level and as a potential referral mechanism for protection.

The community Police Forums are constantly mentored by the CP IOM staff, aiming at making the model self-sustainable by the end of the 24 month period of implementation.

## Community Policing Story

Ms. Laila Hassan fled her hometown of Mosul in June 2014 as ISIL was approaching the city. She now lives with her siblings in Erbil, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

As Head of the NGO ‘Iraq Family’, Laila works with displaced women and children to advocate for and support their needs. She makes daily visits to camps for displaced Iraqis near Erbil, organizing distributions of books and toys for children. Her work focuses on liberated areas, including Al-Qayara, south of Mosul, where many displaced people from nearby Mosul reside.

In early 2016, Laila learned about the IOM Iraq Community Policing programme from a colleague in her organization. She



expressed interest and was invited to participate in a three-day community policing training in Erbil that involved police officers and community representatives.

Laila was impressed with the training. She explains community policing as a “project aimed at preventing crime before it happens and building an environment in which people feel safe.”

“It was the best training I have ever attended, with very specific goals, and I personally benefitted a lot from it. The police need to be trained on how to interact with the communities, and the general public also needs to know how to cooperate with the police, because cooperation with the police leads to better security,” Laila says. “This training foresees the development of Community Policing Forums, which create a space to listen to what people’s issues are, so problems can be resolved before they develop into a bigger issue such as a crime. This can only happen if there is interaction with community policing officers and with the specialists who will be working in the community policing forums.

Community Policing Forum members will be communicating with community members and leaders to assess how people are doing and determine what their problems are, listening and providing support when needed to solve those problems.

***“It was the best training I have ever attended, with very specific goals, and I personally benefitted a lot from it”***

“I sometimes see situations that could be addressed by Community Policing Forums. For instance, if there is a woman in the forum, women could go to the Forum to present their problems. It is also easier to approach a Community Police officer than a regular police officer.

I can see myself working with the project and as soon as the Community Policing team is set up I would be happy to work with them, as long there is trust and communication between both sides.

The Community Policing Forums will be set up in the areas of return when displaced people go back to their homes, so security is maintained and everyone feels safe,” Laila explains.

**“We would like to bring communities closer to community policing teams to build a platform of cooperation and trust.”**

**IOM Community Policing Trainer  
Bassam Yousif**



Community Policing training for displaced Iraqis and host community members, Basra, July 2016

**This project is funded by Germany**

International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Iraq Mission  
Main Office in Baghdad, UNAMI Compound (Diwan 2), International Zone  
Tel: +3908 3105 2600 Ext. 5857 & 5928 | Email: [iraqpublicinfo@iom.int](mailto:iraqpublicinfo@iom.int)  
website: [www.iomiraq.net](http://www.iomiraq.net)  
Twitter: @IOMIraq | Facebook: [www.facebook.com/iomiraqmission](http://www.facebook.com/iomiraqmission)

