



هجرة آمنة

HIJRA AMINA

SAFE MIGRATION FOR IRAQ



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

FLASH REPORT



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Provincial Authorities in Iraq come together to build capacity in migration crisis management

From 8-11 June, IOM Iraq held a training for provincial authorities of Babylon, Baghdad, Kerbala, Missan, Najaf, and Qadissiya, including the governor's office and Provincial Council Members, the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) and focal points from IOM Iraq's Rapid Assessment Response Teams from these Governorates.

The training was organized under the aegis of the EU funded HIJRA AMINA programme, in collaboration with IOM Iraq's emergency response experts under the global Migration Crisis Operational Framework

(MCOF). MCOF is an analytical and operational tool to improve and systematize IOM support to Member States and partners in responding to the assistance and protection needs of crisis-affected, vulnerable populations.

The MCOF is the framework of IOM's response in Iraq, which is also the model applied to build capacities of Iraqi authorities directly involved in the management of the migration crisis. Since the onset of the emergency, IOM Iraq already provided training on the MCOF to 75 officials of both Central Go



and KRG authorities, representing the MoMD, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Interior, the Bureau of Migration and Displacement, the provincial authorities of Erbil, Dahuk and Sulaymaniyah and the Kurdistan Region Independent Human Rights Commission.

These trainings provide an opportunity for operational officials of areas affected by the crisis to come together to share experiences and build a more cohesive response. This crucial aspect was highlighted by a prominent participant of the latest training, Mrs. Layla Flaeh Hasan, a Council Member of Karbala Governorate:

“This is the first time we have shared our experience during the crisis with other provincial authorities and with MoMD. Under the MCOF, we have the opportunity to build better coordination mechanisms to improve response to the immediate needs of the IDPs entering our governorates.”

IOM Iraq Chief of Mission, Dr. Thomas Weiss has also emphasized HIJRA AMINA's role in enhancing the capacities of provincial authorities

How is IOM Iraq supporting the institutions responsible for responding to the migration crisis at a provincial level?

“IOM Iraq is supporting a wide range of operational decision makers and teams in their response to the humanitarian crisis, including Provincial Council Members, MoMD, Governorate offices, and IOM Iraq's Rapid Assessment Response Team, through the provision of life saving humanitarian assistance, but also through technical support – such as data and information sharing and building capacities in emergency response. While the lifesaving response remains our utmost priority, IOM Iraq has also positioned itself to continue to capacitate authorities and share experience on how to strategically deliver assistance to most efficiently meet the immediate needs of IDPs. Through the EU funded HIJRA AMINA programme, IOM Iraq is building a framework in which emergency response actors can coordinate and work together.”

During an emergency, why is it important to build the capacities of provincial authorities, especially in migration crisis management?

“Provincial authorities are at the forefront of the response to the migration crisis. These institutions are the first to interact with the influxes of IDPs fleeing violence in search of a safe refuge. They provide the initial immediate assistance and also have to meet short and medium terms needs, which are beyond provision of material assistance and relate to understanding and responding to the traumatic experiences of the vulnerable populations. With IOM's global field experience and extensive presence throughout Iraq, we are positioned to provide technical support to these critical actors to provide effective and efficient services.”



The training included a visit to the IOM warehouse in Erbil where participants experience first-hand the operationalization of supply chain management for IOM services in the migration crisis. Participants noted the advanced coordination required to ensure the timely and targeted delivery of IOM assistance.

The six governorates represented at the training host just over 20% of the total displaced - approximately 600,000 IDPs. In the current migration crisis, it is clear that provincial authorities have an immediate impact on the formulation of a response plans, given their extensive field presence and outreach mechanisms. IOM Iraq is therefore working to optimize capacities, through actively engaging with officials who operate at the grassroots level to serve the immediate needs of the IDPs. Ambassador Jana Hybaskova, Head of EU Delegation to Iraq recently emphasized this critical priority in Iraq.

This point was also highlighted by an official of the Najaf Governor's Office:

“The course of action is determined by local authorities as we are in the midst of the crisis. In Najaf for example, the crisis is part of the authorities’ daily life. We have more than 80,000 IDPs with whom we are in constant contact with; this is how we know what is needed.”



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