



هجرة آمنة  
HIJRA AMINA  
SAFE MIGRATION FOR IRAQ



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

## FLASH REPORT



“This workshop has enabled us, as a Ministry, to extend our support network when it comes to migration management and human rights considerations during an emergency.”

*Participant, Ministry of Interior*

Aug  
17-18  
2015

## Human rights of migrants during emergencies are considered by Government of Iraq at Humanitarian Border Management workshop

On 17-18 August, a Humanitarian Border Management (HBM) workshop for Central Government and Kurdistan Regional Government authorities was held in Erbil through the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Iraq's HIJRA AMINA programme, funded by the European Union. The workshop aimed to initiate dialogue in Iraq on

the concept of HBM through collective reflection on the complex challenges that emerge during a migration crisis when large influxes of migrants suddenly gather at a border check point. It also aimed to facilitate the exchange of views on a HBM strategy that will facilitate movement and protect human rights.



“Law No. 21/2009 of MoMD organizes the Ministry during an emergency, but lacks an aspect of coordination. After attending this workshop, we recognize it is critical that this law is amended to include mechanisms for coordination to enhance preparedness.”

**Mr. Anwer Abdul Razzaq Hassan, MoMD**

HBM is a term conceptualized by IOM and denotes border management operations before, during and after humanitarian crises which trigger mass-migration. It seeks to improve preparedness for sudden changes in cross-border movements in order to protect migrants and guarantee their human rights while maintaining national sovereignty and security. In Iraq, HBM can be integrated at national borders, in provincial areas and at checkpoints, to address the massive waves of internally displaced persons (IDPs) travelling across governorates since January 2014.

IOM Iraq’s workshop included 24 stakeholders from the Ministries of Interior, Migration and Displacement, Health, Foreign Affairs and Finance; as well as the

Joint Coordination and Monitoring Cell and Crisis Coordination Centre. Each participant contributed unique expertise to the break-out session, when groups mapped Iraq’s current HBM capacities in information management, operations and regulatory framework. The groups then considered challenges and brainstormed a strategy to integrate HBM into the emergency response as a substantial tool to address the massive influxes. This exercise encouraged inter-ministerial coordination, as participants discussed contributions each institution can offer to improve HBM in the current crisis and to ensure preparedness in the future.





“In Iraq, we need improved infrastructure at the border, increased collaboration with neighboring countries, and enhanced communication systems and networks to effectively protect migrants and our sovereignty during emergencies.”  
**Participant, Ministry of Interior**

Participants recognized that the key to HBM is crisis preparedness. The workshop was beneficial in shaping a new lens that Iraq’s ministries can use to view border management priorities. Human rights considerations, availability of health services at the border, temporary shelters, and rapid data collection

and sharing mechanisms were some of the salient issues discussed. The contributions made by the participants and the priorities established will be used to tailor standard operating procedures for Iraq on HBM under the HIJRA AMINA programme.



“HBM is a critical component when preparing for migrant influxes. At the onset of the Syrian crisis, we were more prepared with temporary shelters at the border thanks to the lessons learned from a past IOM Iraq workshop.”

**Major Dara Othman, Director General of Community Policing Directorate**

**Contact IOM Iraq:** Phone: +962 6 56 59 660 iraqpublicinfo@iom.int www.iomiraq.net Issued August 2015

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