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► Not With Us, Not For Us Inclusive Partnerships for Reform



Foreword

The Government of Iraq, including the Kurdistan Regional Government have demonstrated their strong commitment towards reforming the social protection system in Iraq, to ensure adequate support to all those in need. A key milestone has been the recent adoption of the new Retirement and Social Security Law for private sector workers, expanding the legal coverage of the social security system, covering all workers and introducing a wide range of entitlements for the first time.

These new changes bring Iraq's social security system in closer alignment with ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), which was officially ratified by the Government of Iraq in March 2023. These milestones are the result of tireless efforts by ILO's constituents, including government, worker and employer organizations, the Parliament Committee on Labour as well as an array of other key partners, involved in the process of reforming the social protection system in the country.

For its part, the ILO under a European Union funded programme to reform social protection, which is implemented jointly with UNICEF and WFP, has been providing technical assistance on several fronts to support efforts that strengthen the adequacy, coverage and sustainability of the social protection system in Iraq. This documents highlights a wide range of activities that have been taking place since the launch of the joint programme in 2021, the partnerships fostered and the results achieved in light of these efforts.

Partnerships with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Planning and the Baghdad-based Bait Al-Hikma think tank, have resulted in monthly roundtable discussions on key issues that are at the heart of Iraq's labour market and its social protection system, bringing together a wide spectrum of stakeholders to join in the discussions on evidence-based research developed by ILO and key scholars and academia. Tripartite technical workshops on legal reform in the areas of social security and labour laws have illustrated the power of tripartism and beyond, in promoting social dialogue to establish a more equitable and sustainable framework that safeguards the well-being and rights of all workers. A series of conferences have been held to further generate knowledge and evidence on social protection, as a means of enriching policy debates and fostering evidence-based decision making.

These efforts come hand-in-hand with building the capacities of partners, with the knowledge and skills to address some of the barriers of achieving an effective and sustainable social protection system - from technical trainings for officials on ways to better design, manage and oversee the current social protection reform process to training and engaging with journalists on ways to effectively report on issues of social protection and raising awareness among workers and the greater public on their rights. As we celebrate these achievements of all partners involved in the process, we reaffirm our commitment to continue this support and ensure that all women and men workers and their families benefit from an equitable social protection system now and in the future.

Maha Kattaa

ILO Country Coordinator in Iraq



Introduction

The first half of 2023 marked a significant turning point in Iraq's journey toward creating an economically productive and socially inclusive nation. Two major milestones were achieved during this period, demonstrating Iraq's commitment to progress and reform. In March 2023, Iraq ratified the Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102), becoming the second country in the region, following Jordan, to do so. This ratification was followed by another momentous event just two months later, as the Council of Representatives in Federal Iraq voted on May 17, 2023, to adopt the new Social Security Law for Private Sector Workers. This legislation introduces sweeping reforms to the social security system, expanding its coverage and benefits to include workers from all sectors, including informal workers, the self-employed, and contributing family workers. The law also introduces crucial entitlements such as maternity and unemployment benefits, and it establishes provisions for health insurance from public, cooperative, and private providers.

However, it is not just the achievements themselves that hold significance but also the process that led to these transformative reforms. Over a span of 18 months prior to these milestones, the International Labour Organization (ILO) served as the platform for convening diverse perspectives and ensuring the active participation of relevant stakeholders. By engaging government officials, members of parliament, workers, employers, civil society, and the scientific and thought community in Iraq, the ILO fostered an inclusive and comprehensive consultative approach. This process was guided by concrete evidence and policy-oriented research, which elevated the importance of social protection in the policy agenda, generated momentum for reform, and stimulated crucial discussions on the direction of such reforms.

Throughout its engagement with stakeholders, the ILO implemented various initiatives of diverse nature. The aim of this documentation is to present a comprehensive overview of these initiatives, highlighting the valuable lessons learned regarding the significance of a consultative approach to development. By showcasing the range of actions undertaken and their outcomes, this documentation seeks to underscore the positive impact that consultative meetings can have on driving meaningful change and fostering sustainable development in Iraq.

By highlighting both the achievements and the consultative process that led to them, this documentation serves as a testament to Iraq's commitment to progress and its dedication to building a socially inclusive and economically prosperous nation. It underscores the importance of collaboration, dialogue, and evidence-based decision-making as key drivers of successful reforms in the pursuit of a better future for all Iraqi citizens.

1. Celebrating Iraq's ratification of the Convention 102 on Social Security (Minimum Standards):

In March 2023, the Government of Iraq ratified the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102) - making it the second country in the region to do so after Jordan.



To mark this occasion, the ILO in Iraq hosted a celebratory awareness activity at the historical and picturesque Bait Al-Hikma, located on the banks of the Tigris River, in the heart of Iraq's capital Baghdad. which has a rich history of being a centre for intellectual and cultural activities. The historical significance of the location added a unique dimension to the event and was a perfect setting for a thoughtful celebration of this milestone achievement.

The keynote speeches were delivered inside Iraq's first Parliament chamber and were well received by a diverse audience consisting of government officials from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), and other ministries and authorities, Members of Parliament, workers, employers, and thought leaders who have been working closely with the ILO to ensure the reform agenda enjoys broad-based support. In addition to the informative speeches and presentations, the activity featured a cultural music performance that infused the event with an aura of celebration, and an eye-catching cartoon exhibition on social security that showcased the critical importance of social protection coverage in ensuring a decent living standard for all Iraqis. The scenic view of the Tigris River added to the already lively atmosphere and was a perfect backdrop for the event. After the event, guests enjoyed Ramadan Iftar in the company of others who share a commitment to social justice and solidarity.



The event in Baghdad brought together stakeholders and partners from across the spectrum to mark Iraq's ratification of Convention 102 on Social Security.



2. Policy Dialogue Forum:

The ILO has established individual partnerships with the MoLSA, the Ministry of Planning (MOP) and Bait Al-Hikma to establish dialogue fora, where monthly roundtable discussions on key issues that face Iraq's labour market and its social protection system, bringing together a wide spectrum of stakeholders to join in the discussions. The objectives of dialogue fora are to increase momentum and strengthen intellectual dialogue to analyse and propose systematic and context-specific solutions to ensure inclusive economic growth and social development in Iraq.

► ILO-Ministry of Planning:

The ILO and MOP established a policy dialogue forum taking place within the premises of the Ministry to broaden cooperation with thought leaders from various disciplines in Iraq who have worked and participated in the rich intellectual and policy-focused debates. This is of particular importance as it supports in generating multidisciplinary intellectual outputs, creating synergies, and promoting cross-fertilization of ideas that are useful for formulating complex policies and out-of-the-box solutions. The specialized dialogue at the forum has benefited from the expertise of various professionals from several fields such as economics, health, sociology among others, who have brought with them strong academic rigour. Embedding the policy forum within the Ministry with such a breadth of expert participation also supports the long-term sustainability of such policy discussions.

Below is an outline of various events, including roundtable discussions which took place to stimulate discussion among partners on issues which seek to promote inclusive growth and social development.

A) Building a Social Protection Floor in Iraq:



Roundtable discussion



November 2022

This roundtable was organized to discuss findings of a UN position paper on building Iraq's Social Protection Floor. The paper proposes recommendations to strengthen the adequacy, coverage and equity of the social protection system in Iraq. The round table included keynote speeches by Mr. Ghulam Isaczai Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq; Dr. Maher Hammad Johan Deputy Minister of Planning for Technical Affairs; and Dr. Maha Kattaa ILO Country Coordinator in Iraq. It included presentations by keynote speakers from the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the ILO, stimulating discussion on reform options to build a coherent, effective, and impactful social assistance system.



B) Public Works in Iraq:



Roundtable discussion



December 2022

The discussion centered around how a public works programme may fit within the social protection landscape in Iraq. The discussion was based on a newly developed paper by the ILO and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, that examines how relevant such a programme is to the Government's objectives of addressing high levels of unemployment particularly among youth and women, while supporting working age adults in receipt of social assistance to transition out of poverty and into decent employment with effective access to social security.



C) Old Age Protection:



Roundtable discussion



February 2023

This discussion highlighted ways to achieve synergies between social assistance and social security for the public and private sector in order to bridge the coverage gap in income security for old age, by building social protection floors, including in relation to a social pension for old age in a coordinated manner. To inform policy options, an evidence-based presentation by the ILO on costing exercise was conducted.



D) Cost of Inaction- Education, Labour Market, and Innovation:



Roundtable discussion



March 2023

The roundtable presented the findings of an ILO working paper on education and labour market considerations. The ILO highlighted the findings of a mathematical model that estimated the loss of earnings due to Iraq's education gap. The presentation also outlined the potential of social protection to address this gap, based on international good practices. Participants highlighted the need to discuss the implications of this evidence with policymakers in order to advance supportive social policies.





E) Integration of returnees into the labour market:



Roundtable discussion



May 2023

The event focused on the current situation of Iraqi returnees and obstacles to their integration; labour and migration policies supporting the integration of returnees; as well as programmes such as those linked to skills development and recognition of qualifications.



F) Urbanisation in Iraq: Labour Market Implications and the Role of Social Security Funds:



Roundtable discussion



June 2023

The roundtable revolved around an in-depth exploration of the profound implications of urbanization on Iraq's labour market. The discussions delved into the challenges that emerged as a result of the rapid urbanization process, emphasizing the critical need to foster sustainable urban development. The participants highlighted the importance of promoting equitable employment opportunities and enhancing the overall living conditions throughout the country, recognizing that addressing these issues is crucial for ensuring inclusive growth and prosperity for all Iraq.



I) Foreign workers in Iraq:



Roundtable discussion



Upcoming, July 2023

The upcoming roundtable will aim to address the challenges and opportunities associated with foreign labour in the country, fostering dialogue and collaboration for effective labour policies. The discussions will focus on ensuring fair employment practices, protecting the rights of migrant workers, and promoting inclusive economic growth in Iraq.

► ILO-Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs:

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs is the ILO's main counterpart within the Government of Iraq, with responsibility over all government strategies and priorities relating to labour and employment, as well as multiple social protection programmes – whether contributory or non-contributory. The policy dialogue forum established with the Ministry aims to strengthen the debate on these areas of shared priority, both within and beyond the ILO's social protection reform programme.

A) Building a Social Protection System in Iraq:



Roundtable discussion



April 2023

Experts discussed options to enhance the effectiveness of the non-contributory social assistance programme in Iraq, which suffers from key shortcomings including high errors in the targeting, stigmatization, and inefficiency. The ILO shared international best practices including the consolidation of a Social Protection Floor that is based on life-cycle risks. The ILO presented results from its costing of this inclusive floor.



► ILO-Bait Al-Hikma:

The Bait Al-Hikma is as an Iraqi-based think tank with a long and rich tradition of being a centre for intellectual and cultural activities in the country. The partnership with Bait al-Hikma represents an opportunity to bring together some of the most important thought leaders in Iraq to engage in policy-oriented debate.

A) Demographic shifts and sustainable development in Iraq:



Roundtable discussion



February 2023

A roundtable focused on the demographic shift that is accelerating in Iraq, and its consequence on key socio-economic dimensions such as informality and employment; social security and protection; and the development path of Iraq.



B) Violence and harassment in the world of work:



Symposium



December 2022

This symposium discussed ways to address, prevent and respond to violence and harassment in the world of work.



C) Cost of Inaction- Education and Labour Market:



Roundtable discussion



May 2023

The discussion highlighted the findings of an ILO working paper which identifies the economic impact of the education gap in Iraq and presents an estimate of the national economic losses in terms of potential cash flow from the labour market that would have been generated if Iraqi youth had received education at the same level as their peers in other countries.



D) Towards decent work in the platform economy in Iraq:



Roundtable discussion



May 2023

The roundtable focused on a research paper on the platform economy with emphasis on the growing dependence among Iraqis on internet-based service platforms for transportation, residence, e-commerce, delivery, entertainment, and more.



E) Social Security in Iraq: Opportunities for Extension and Implementation Barriers:



Roundtable discussion



June 2023

Discussions focused on the social security law in Iraq, opportunities and challenges arising from the law and its developmental impact on Iraqi society, the labour market, workers, including informal workers and their families. Participants also discussed the importance of cooperation to promote sustainable development.





3. Tripartite consultations on legal reform:

During the transformative period of social security and labour law reforms in both federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, the ILO demonstrated its unwavering commitment to the principle of tripartism and intensified its consultative efforts through a series of tripartite technical workshops. These workshops, supported by a team of legal and actuarial experts, played a pivotal role in ensuring the coherence, sustainability, and alignment of proposed reforms with international conventions and national legal instruments. Moreover, the ILO's dedication to tripartism was further reinforced as it provided support to parliamentary committees in both regions and facilitated participatory discussions between members of parliaments and representatives of worker and employer organizations. These discussions served as a platform to deliberate on key aspects and finalize the draft laws, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of all stakeholders were taken into account.

In a significant development in May 2023, the Council of Representatives in Federal Iraq voted in favour of adopting the new Social Security Law for Private Sector Workers. This landmark legislation brings about far-reaching reforms to the social security system, effectively replacing the outdated Law No. 39 on Pension and Social Security for Private-Sector Workers of 1979. The new law aligns the private sector's social security system more closely with the provisions outlined in the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102). It strengthens the sustainability of the scheme, expands the range of entitlements, significantly broadens the coverage of the law, and equips the Departments of Social Security with essential tools to extend effective coverage to a larger segment of the working population.

Similarly, progress is being made on the draft Law in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, which aims to achieve comparable objectives. Once passed, this legislation, along with the forthcoming labour law and migrant worker bylaws in the Kurdistan Region, will align more explicitly with international standards, expanding the rights of workers and complementing the social security law in a more comprehensive manner. The ILO will continue its support including facilitating consultative and participatory workshops until the law is enacted.

These remarkable advancements demonstrate the tireless efforts of the ILO and the commitment of both federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to undertake substantive reforms in the areas of social security and labour laws. By embracing international standards, engaging in tripartite consultations, and ensuring the involvement of diverse stakeholders, these reforms seek to establish a more equitable and sustainable framework that safeguards the well-being and rights of workers, fostering a brighter future for all.



Tripartite Technical Workshop Baghdad, August 2021



Tripartite Technical Workshop Baghdad, September 2021



Maternity protection Workshop Baghdad, Nov 2021



Tripartite Technical Workshop (KRI), Erbil, December 2021



Tripartite Technical Workshop (KRI), Erbil, February 2022



Tripartite Technical Workshop (KRI), Erbil, February 2022



High Level Technical Meeting (KRI), MoP, Erbil – February 2022



Tripartite Technical Workshop, Baghdad, May 2022



ILO-MPs Technical Consolidation Workshop, Baghdad, June 2022



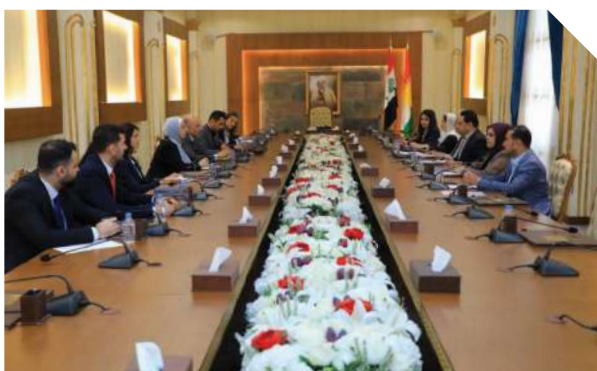
Tripartite Technical Workshop, Baghdad, October, 2022



Tripartite Technical Workshop, Baghdad, October 2022



Tripartite Technical Workshop, Baghdad, October 2022



High-Level Technical Meeting, Kurdistan Parliament, Erbil, October 2022



ILO- MPs Technical meeting, Iraqi Parliament, Baghdad, November 2022



ILO- MoLSA-MPs Technical discussion about social security law, Baghdad, May 2023



ILO- MoLSA-MPs Technical discussion about SS law, Baghdad, May 2023



4. Inclusive roundtable discussions across all governorates:

ILO Iraq has initiated an advocacy programme that aims to build political capital and wider support for the social protection reform agenda, particularly on social security coverage extension, beyond the capitals of Baghdad and Erbil. The ILO convened several roundtables with thought leaders in several Governorates to discuss and debate opportunities and challenges to extending social security coverage to those in need. The roundtables also aimed to support outreach activities by bringing together a wider set of stakeholders in the policy reform debate.

Some of the topics highlighted by participants included challenges relating to the limited scope of social security (prior to the adoption of the new Social Security Law), as well as challenges to ensuring inclusive labour markets, especially as relates to the discrimination faced by women, and how these affect eligibility and access to social security.

The ILO has collaborated with the Media Center for Civil Society Organizations, Al-Amal Association, and Rawanga Foundation to successfully implement these roundtable discussions in various Governorates. This partnership with national institutions has proven instrumental in advancing the reform agenda and garnering wider support for social protection initiatives beyond the major cities of Baghdad and Erbil.



Roundtable discussion, Baghdad, January 2022



Roundtable discussion, Najaf, April 2022



Roundtable discussion, Basrah, April 2022



Roundtable discussion, Baghdad, April 2022



Roundtable discussion, Sulaymaniyah, May 2022



Roundtable discussion, Karbala, August 2022



Roundtable discussion, Duhok, August 2022



Roundtable discussion, Halabja, August 2022



Roundtable discussion, Kirkuk, October 2022



Roundtable discussion, Ninewa, November 2022



Roundtable discussion, Erbil, November 2022



Roundtable discussion, Basrah, February 2023



5. Research Conferences:

The ILO has also sought to actively support engagement of researchers, scholars, students and academic institutions in the generation of knowledge and evidence on social protection in Iraq, as a means of enriching policy debates and fostering evidence-based decision making. To this end, the ILO has partnered with various institutions to host and facilitate research and discussions through various symposia and conferences.

A) National Conference on Social Protection, Social Security and Public works in Iraq:



October 2022

This national conference was organized in collaboration with the American University of Iraq – Baghdad. The conference included a series of panel discussions with Iraqi thought leaders and domain experts to present their research findings on the opportunities and challenges to the creation of an inclusive social protection system in Iraq.



B) National Symposium on Iraq 2050: Economically Productive and Socially Protected



May 2022

This symposium was organized in collaboration with Malooma Center for Research and Development. The focus of this symposium was on how trends in the Iraqi labour market, including demographic changes and the rise of technology, affect and interact with social security policy.



C) Regional Symposium on Introducing Labour and Social Security Laws and Rights in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq:



March 2023

The symposium was held jointly with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the MOLSA of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The symposium focused on discussing the potential for introducing modules on labour and social security laws to the teaching curriculum of universities. The conference included two panel discussions, one on graduates' inclination towards public-sector employment, and the second on private-sector workers' rights including to social security.



D) International Conference on Human Security and Sustainable Development in Iraq and the Arab World: Reality, Challenges, and Ways Forward



Upcoming, September 2023

A conference will be held in September to shed light on the reality of sustainable development in Iraq and the Arab World. It will focus on identifying some of the threats to human security at the individual, family, and societal levels; exploring the relationship between human rights and sustainable development goals; exploring the nature of the relationship between security threats and sustainable development; and formulating recommendations that can contribute to enhancing human security and improving outcomes.



**Under the auspices of the Prime Minister,
Eng. Mohammed Shia'a Al-Sudani**

The Social Studies Department at Bayt al-Hikma, in cooperation with the International Labor Organization, the Journalists Syndicate, the International Federation of Universities, the Areed platform, and a number of Iraqi and Arab universities, academies, and research centres, are holding an international scientific conference titled

Human security and sustainable development in Iraq and the Arab World: Reality, Challenges, and Means of Confrontation



27th - 28th September 2023, at Bayt al-Hikma, Baghdad, Iraq

6. Talk Development Platform:

A virtual platform was set up to further expand debate on social policies, economics, and labour market issues. The platform, entitled Talk Development convenes on a monthly basis and invites policymakers, researchers, national and international development thought leaders, and civil society to exchange ideas, knowledge, experiences, and views on Iraq's development (past and ongoing). Lessons learned from local, regional, and international expertise are also presented at this platform.

A thought leader is invited for each session as a main guest with a moderator initiating a conversation with the expert on a specific issue and fielding questions from the audience. The platform is used as a bridge to connect the experiences of Iraqi thought leaders living abroad with those living in Iraq to stimulate discussions involving international and national expertise.

The first of such episodes was held recently, entitled: Social Security in Iraq: Opportunities for coverage extension and implementation barriers.



7. Trainings:

The ILO is dedicated to equipping governments, social partners and key stakeholders with the knowledge and skills necessary to address the complexities of social security systems. This is being done through capacity building training programmes, that aim to enhance the understanding and implementation of effective social security measures.

Training initiatives by the ILO provide government officials and social partners, including employers' organizations and trade unions, with comprehensive insights into social security principles, policies, and practices. Participants gain a deep understanding of key aspects such as social protection schemes, pension systems, healthcare provisions, and income security measures.

The ILO also supports participants to develop, strengthen, and administer robust social security systems that meet the needs of the Iraqi population. Through these training programmes, government officials acquire the skills to design inclusive social security policies, ensure compliance with international standards, and effectively manage social security funds.

By strengthening the capacity of governments and social partners in social security, the ILO contributes to the advancement of comprehensive social protection systems and the realization of universal social security coverage. The training programmes play a pivotal role in ensuring that social security measures are well-designed, inclusive, and responsive to the evolving needs of societies.

A) National Training Centre for Inspectors at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs:

With the support of the ILO, a new National Training Centre for inspectors was established within the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Baghdad.

The centre will serve as a training hub for labour and social security inspectors and other professionals from across governorates on the principles and functions of labour inspection, occupational health and safety and social security.



B) Training journalists on issues relevant to social protection:

Efforts are being made to raise awareness among workers in the private sector, particularly those working in the informal sector, on the benefits of social security, and cultivating broader support for social security coverage among unregistered workers as well as the wider Iraqi public.

The ILO and partners have been holding a series of trainings for journalists and social media influencers on ways to better analyze, monitor, and evaluate public policies that contribute to the actualization of the right to social protection for all Iraqis in need. Special emphasis was placed on areas related to social protection (social security, social protection, old age). These workshops support outreach efforts and leverage various communications channels, instruments and outlets to effectively deliver messages on social security and related benefits.



Media training, Baghdad, December 2021



Media training, Erbil, February 2022



Media training, Sulaymaniyah, February 2022



Media training, Sulaymaniyah, February 2022



Media training, Basrah, April 2022

C) ILO- International Training Centre (ITC) Trainings:

The ILO in Iraq has been collaborating with ILO-ITC- the training arm of the ILO in Turin to deliver a series of training activities for government staff and social partners combining in-person, blended and online learning, both in Iraq and also in ILO-ITC campus in Turin.

► Training in Iraq:

These trainings equipped participants with the necessary knowledge to better design, manage and oversee the current social protection reform process in the country and the implementation of new programmes. The curriculum aimed to provide a comprehensive learning journey starting with key concepts and principles and covering a range of topics and technical aspects informing the design, programming and implementation of social protection systems. The tailored and hands-on nature of the programme has ensured participants have the skills and opportunities to apply the learning to concrete social protection challenges they will face during the life of the training and beyond in their own context.



Capacity building trainings for inspectors in Iraq, May 2022



Social Security Governance Training (MoLSA and MPs, Federal), Sulaymaniyah, July 2022



Social Security Governance Training (MoLSA and MPs, Federal), Sulaymaniyah, July 2022



Social Security Governance, Inspection Training (MoLSA and MPs, KRI), Duhok, September 2022



Social Security Governance, Inspection Training (MoLSA and MPs, KRI), Duhok, September 2022



Blended Training on Social Security (Government, Social Partners in Federal and KRI), Erbil, January 2023



Actuarial training (MoLSA Federal and KRI), Erbil, March 2023



Social Security Inspection Training (KRI and Federal), Erbil, June 2023



Social Security Inspection Training (KRI and Federal), Erbil, June 2023

► Training in ITC-ILO Campus for Senior Officials:

The ILO supported two senior officials within MoLSA to attend specialized trainings in Turin at the ITC-ILO. The first one was a 5-day training that is built on the updated guidelines of the International Social Security Administration on administrative solutions for extending social security coverage. Through the course, participants learned about various challenges and innovations in the extension of social security coverage to informal workers, including in relation to the specific needs of difficult-to cover groups; cost-effective registration systems; innovative contribution collection and compliance mechanisms; and effective and inclusive delivery systems. The training provided the counterpart with the opportunity not only to learn from the instruction of the course, but also to exchange lessons learned and best practices with other participants.

In addition, a senior official from MOLSA took part in an ITC-ILO training, which focused on access to decent work for refugees and other forcibly displaced persons in mid-2023. The training is designed for officials from ministries and government agencies responsible for refugee related policies and programmes; as well as representatives from Employers and Workers' organizations, among others. It focused on key concepts related to forced displacement, as well as the importance of employment on livelihoods and self-reliance; and legal frameworks governing access to the labour market.



► Executive Coaching Programme:

Two senior social security officials have been provided with one-to-one executive coaching sessions, one official from federal Iraq and the second official from Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

The Executive E-coaching in Social Protection is an online programme delivered by a high-level coach sourced by the ITCILO to meet the profile of each individual. The duration for this programme is five months, during which the senior officials will engage in a flexible, bilateral e-coaching engagement with their coach.

D) Training for Social Researchers:

The Social Protection Department under MoLSA and the ILO jointly organized a series of training for social researchers under the title "The Engine of Transformation to Achieve the Goals of Social Protection,". The primary objective of the training was to provide comprehensive learning to a selected group of social researchers within the department. The training aimed to equip participants with the most effective methods for conducting field research in the realm of social protection.





8. Peer-to-Peer Discussions:

A field visit for Iraqi constituents to Jordan was organised by the ILO in November 2022, to facilitate learning on Jordan's extensive experience in a) extending social security coverage, b) adopting IT solutions in the implementation of social protection and employment services; and c) in innovations in the implementation of labour inspection. It included meetings with counterparts from the Ministry of Labour, the Chamber of Industry, and union representatives, and staff at the Social Security Corporation, ILO's main partner in addressing the structural gaps in social security coverage in Jordan.



9. Selected Interviews:

The ILO has been actively engaging with the media through social media platforms, television interviews and other digital platforms, to create awareness among the public about the social security system in Iraq. These efforts have not only provided valuable insights but also increased the visibility of the programme, raising awareness on the importance of social security and its impact on the lives of individuals in Iraq.

Through the multiple TV channels, ILO reached a wide audience, disseminating key information about the social security system and its benefits. This digital presence has allowed the ILO to connect with individuals across Iraq and raise awareness on available social security programmes and how they can access them.

The ILO believes engagement on social media and television will significantly contribute to raising awareness about the social security system in Iraq. By creating a dialogue and sharing relevant information to empower individuals and communities to make informed decisions and access the social security benefits they are entitled to.

A) Television Coverage and Interviews:



<https://youtu.be/VAVm1eKHys>



<https://youtu.be/4jXQeTEw5xM>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8UBGzdLe2kQ>



<https://rb.gy/nrha2>



B) Newspapers Coverage:

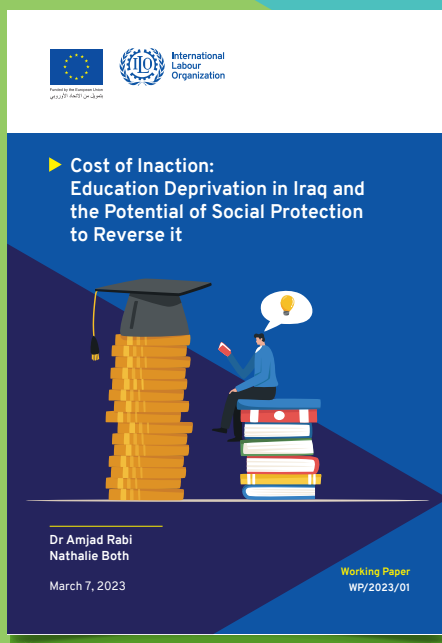
ILO's engagement featured in multiple newspapers. In doing so, the ILO has garnered widespread attention through its engagements, receiving coverage in multiple newspapers. These publications have highlighted the impactful initiatives undertaken by the ILO across various focus areas.

One notable event that received extensive coverage was the Roundtable Discussion on Social Security and Labour Law in Basrah. Organized by the ILO, this discussion brought together key stakeholders to address crucial issues concerning social security and labour legislation. The insights and outcomes from this roundtable have been widely featured in newspapers, shedding light on the significance of these discussions for workers' rights.

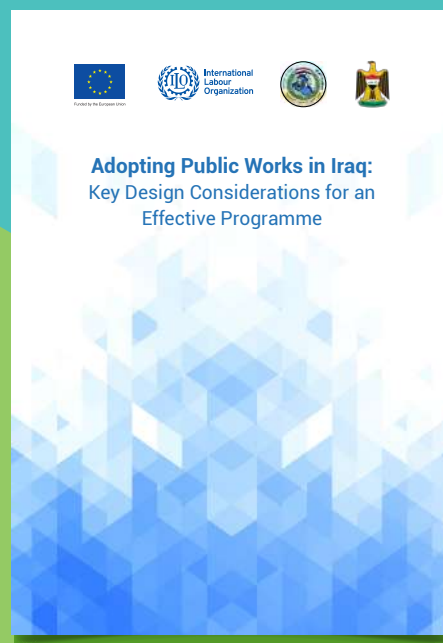
In addition, the ILO's emphasis on investing in human capital has also been prominently covered in newspapers. Recognizing the pivotal role of human capital development in driving sustainable economic growth, the ILO has actively promoted initiatives aimed at enhancing skills, education, and training opportunities. These efforts have been showcased in various newspaper pages, underscoring the ILO's commitment to empowering individuals and fostering inclusive and equitable societies. The media coverage serves to not only highlight the relevance and impact of the ILO's work but also to raise public and stakeholder awareness regarding social security.



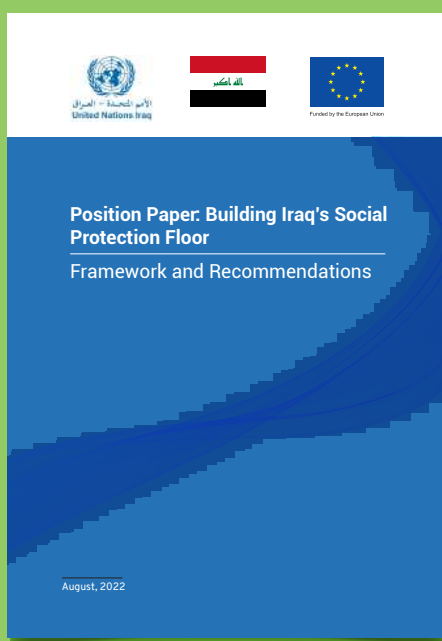
10. Papers:



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https://www.ilo.org/beirut/publications/WCMS_863749/lang-en/index.htm



https://www.ilo.org/beirut/publications/WCMS_853782/lang-en/index.htm



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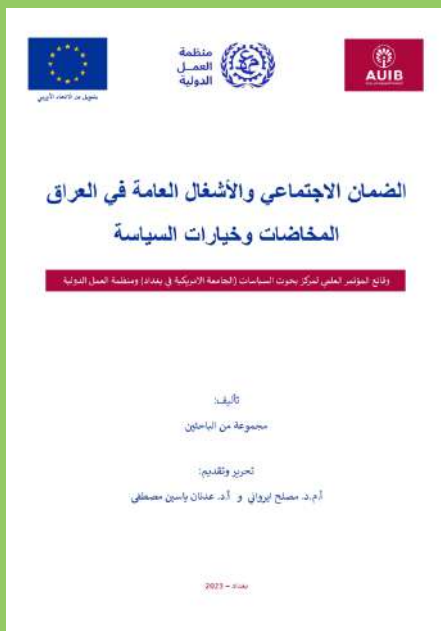
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https://www.ilo.org/beirut/information-resources/WCMS_851983/lang-en/index.htm



https://www.ilo.org/beirut/publications/WCMS_887920/lang-ar/index.htm

For further information:

Social Protection Programme for Iraq: Leveraging Effective Response and Accelerating Reform

 https://www.ilo.org/beirut/projects/WCMS_832046/lang-en/index.htm

ILO Iraq Facebook

 <https://www.facebook.com/ILOIRAQ/>



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