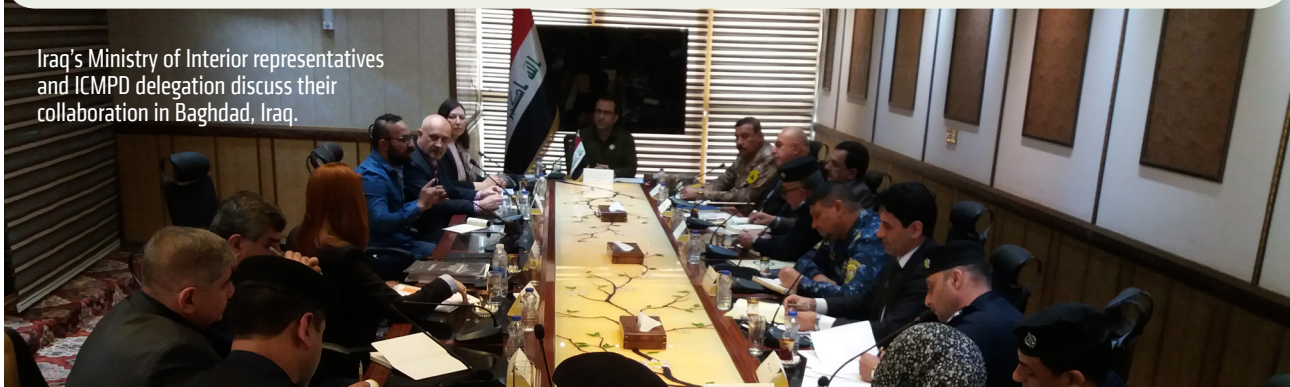


### Iraq's recent migration history

- Iraq has a long history of migration movements – both as a migrant hosting and as a sending country. As of 2018, approximately 280,000 Iraqi refugees were hosted within the region. At the same time, European countries (Germany in particular) have remained important countries of asylum for Iraqi refugees, reaching a peak of 130,000 asylum claims in 2016.
- Iraq hosts approximately 230,000 Syrian refugees, as well as almost 2 million IDPs. In the past year, over one million IDPs returns were facilitated to their communities of origin.
- Iraq encourages the voluntary return of their nationals. However, to facilitate this, the root causes for forced migration have to be continuously addressed – security issues need to be addressed and at the same time economic opportunities need to be increased.
- Iraq is also a destination country for more than 360,000 migrants. The majority are from the Middle East region, however Iraq is also a destination for irregular migration from Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines and other Asian and African countries.



Iraq's Ministry of Interior representatives and ICMPD delegation discuss their collaboration in Baghdad, Iraq.

### Towards a Migrant Resource Centre in Baghdad

#### مركز موارد الهجرة Migrant Resource Centre

A first information centre for potential migrants – the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) – has been established in Baghdad. The MRC is placed with the Ministry of Migration and Displaced and a second MRC office will be placed with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Baghdad.

The MRC provides a wide range of services including:

- Clear, accessible and understandable information for Iraqis on the risks, dangers and consequences of irregular emigration, signs of exploitation and ways of protection from human trafficking. In this context, the MRC also focuses on vulnerable groups and internally displaced people.
- Information to outgoing, intending and potential migrants on possibilities for safe, legal and orderly migration, as well as rules and regulations.

- Pre-departure orientation and information on work and living conditions abroad, their rights and obligations, access to protection mechanisms and information on return processes
- Referral to services related to the return process, such as assistance for reintegration in Iraq, provision of technical/vocational training, etc.
- Post-arrival assistance to labour migrants coming to Iraq, providing them with information on their right and obligations in the country.

MRCs also provide information for governmental and non-governmental stakeholders who are directly or indirectly involved in the facilitation or communication of migration related issues. MRCs conduct information sessions at vocational and technical training schools, universities, colleges and schools as well as with communities and during conferences and other events.

## Law Enforcement Cooperation in the region



Via the Silk Routes project, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is facilitating regional cooperation for law enforcement agencies on irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking, in brief RELEC. This cooperation among Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Turkey started in October 2015. Its aim is to establish a better transnational response against criminal networks involved in migration related crimes. At national level in Iraq, RELEC supports the establishment of a framework for statistical information exchange and analysis of migration trends in order to strengthen national capacities for international cooperation. At regional level, the Ministry of Interior exchange knowledge and experience with the RELEC partner countries to improve international cooperation in the area of irregular migration, migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

## Technical support for migration management: a new Policy for Engagement with Iraqis Abroad



The Republic of Iraq has a long and complex history of mobility, both within and beyond the immediate region, which has resulted in a vital and diverse community of Iraqis and persons of Iraqi origin residing abroad. The Policy on Engagement with Iraqis Abroad for the period 2019-2022, supported by ICMPD with the Ministry of Migration and Displaced (MoMD) leading the process, provides a framework for the government of Iraq to engage and work with members of the Iraqi community abroad. The Policy awaits the necessary approval from the Prime Minister's Office, pursuant to which ICMPD will support the MoMD in the implementation process as envisaged in the Policy's priority pillars. Given the different circumstances under which the Iraqi community was created and the differences in their conditions and experiences in countries of residence, ICMPD's areas of intervention will aim to address the needs and constraints of these different populations.

## Migrant Protection



In Iraq, MIGRA.P supports the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MOLSA) in expanding its rules and regulations for labour migrants in Iraq as well as for Iraqi workers in other countries, in providing post-arrival orientation and services for foreign workers, and in strengthening the capacities of MOLSA in developing labour skills and market data, inspection and compliance, etc.

## The "Silk Routes project"

All described activities are conducted under the project "Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes", which aims at improving migration governance in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan, as well as Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

It is funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD). The project strengthens the regional dialogue on migration under the Budapest Process which was initiated in 1993. The project hosts the Silk Routes Facility, MIGRA.P and RELEC; in collaboration with its partner countries it also operates Migrant Resource Centres (MRCs).

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## Our contacts

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