CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LONG-TERM REINTEGRATION OF RETURNEES TO AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ

The CAIR project aims to contribute to the creation of conditions for sustainable reintegration of Afghan and Iraqi returnees, individuals as well as families, in their communities of return.

**Pillar one** works to strengthen the capacities of Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) in Afghanistan and of the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) in Iraq, as well as community based organisations that provide extended reintegration support to the returnees in both countries.

**Pillar two** works to sustain the reintegration efforts by creating platforms for the public-private collaborations to improve the access to employment opportunities for returnees and better link the provision of reintegration support to the national market needs.

**WHO WE WORK WITH**

**in Afghanistan:**
- Ministry of Refugees and Repatriations (MoRR)
- Directorates for Refugees and Repatriations (DoRR) (district level)
- Community Development Councils (CDC) (local level)
- Private Sector actors

**in Iraq:**
- Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD)
- Branches of the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (local level)
- Private Sector actors

The project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Denmark and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

The total project budget is EUR 1,338,688

**Total implementation period**

1 February 2021 - 31 January 2023 - 24 months
The SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES of the CAIR project are as follows:

- To advance the knowledge of the national stakeholders on reintegration in Iraq and Afghanistan, at the central and local levels;
- To create multi-stakeholder platforms for sustained exchanges between relevant authorities in charge of reintegration, employment, and technical vocational and educational institutions;
- To identify areas for public-private collaborations and partnerships to offer additional access to employment opportunities for returnees, in line with the market needs.

OBJECTIVES AND VISION

The project aims to create good practices for community level support to sustainable reintegration of returnees. While recognising the difficulties which the individuals and the families are facing in the course of reintegration, the project would set a system of identification of early set-backs in the reintegration process and of systematic responses. In achieving this goal, the project will provide systematic capacity building of those institutions at local level in Afghanistan and Iraq, which are mandated to ensure access to services and reintegration support to returnees, and to the community based organisations. The capacity building of the relevant institutions will include modules on how to follow the reintegration path and to better understand and address the long term reintegration needs of individuals and families.

Beyond the broader objective of creating a better reintegration climate for individuals, families, and institutions, specific interventions to promote private sector engagement in reintegration of returnees will be designed. Building upon the existing efforts of the two countries to engage the private sector into sustainable development efforts, the CAIR initiative will identify avenues for continued private sector engagement on issues of sustainable return and reintegration.

To this end, the CAIR project sets to create a multi-stakeholder platform in each country for regular exchanges between the relevant authorities, mainly those in charge of reintegration, employment and technical vocational and education institutions, and a relevant pool of the private sector actors. In each country, the multi-stakeholder platform will aim to build cooperation between the private sector and the institutions engaged in reintegration support, and provide exchanges on the prospects for gaining employment, as well as skills building opportunities through internships, apprenticeships, targeted vocational training, etc. Featuring both virtual and on-site elements, the platforms will facilitate the process of matching the returnees’ skills with the needs of the potential employers.

The desired results envisaged under the project shall be achieved through several initiatives. These include training workshops for the national experts amongst the governmental officials and community based organisations; development of software solutions for assistance and counselling plans; and taking concrete steps to involve the private sector actors as partners for sustainable reintegration.