



Iraq's recent migration history

- **Iraq has a long history of refugee movements – both as a refugee hosting and as a sending country.**
Approximately 4 million Iraqi refugees were estimated to have been displaced around the world in 2007. Since June 2014, no reliable estimate has been made available concerning the number of Iraqis seeking protection abroad, but European figures show an increase in asylum claims.
- **In 2015, more than 120,000 Iraqis were – besides Syrians and Afghans – among the top three main citizenships of first time asylum applicants in the European Union.**
- **Iraq has provided protection for almost 4 million IDPs and people in IDP-like situations as well as for over 280,000 Syrian refugees since the beginning of the conflict in 2011.**
- **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 reduced and at the same time economic opportunities need to be increased.**



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) – is currently being established in Baghdad. This MRC is integrated in two premises of the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) in the west and east of Iraq's capital, Karkh and Rasafa. The MRC provides a wide range of services including:

- information on work and living conditions abroad, recruitment processes, rights and obligations, migration laws and regulations, legal and cultural practices in destination countries, labour migration opportunities and migration for educational purposes

- pre-departure orientation (where applicable) on all migration topics
- access to protection mechanisms and information on return processes

The MRC counsellors also sensitise Iraqis on the risks, dangers and consequences of irregular emigration, and alert them on signs of exploitation and ways of protection from human trafficking. In this context, the MRC will also focus on vulnerable groups and internally displaced people.

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 also 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. In Iraq, the Ministry of Interior acts as the National Contact Point (NCP) and will - together with their peers - exchange migration data, analyse migration trends and developments in the region, and establish a regional early warning system.

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



The Silk Routes Facility provides direct technical support for improving migration management frameworks, including in Iraq. Since September 2017 ICMPD experts are supporting the development of a Policy on Engagement with Iraqis Abroad under the leadership of the Ministry of Migration and Displacement.

Iraqis abroad possess various forms of diasporic capital that can help in the country's development. The policy aims to capitalise on this through four key thematic areas: (a) institutional and leadership development, (b) human capital, (c) economic development, (d) supporting Iraqis abroad.

Large-Scale Actions

The Silk Routes Facility also offers grants to eligible entities for projects focusing on advancement of migration management. A Call for Proposals is open for EU member states, international organisations, civil society organisations, and other eligible entities. All details are available at: www.budapestprocess.org/silkroutesfacility

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).

Our contacts

To find out more please do not hesitate to contact:

Mr. Ma'ad Hashim Barakat

Country Coordinator Iraq

Tel.: +964 790 131 3018 / + 964 770 259 3339

E-mail: maad.barakat@icmpd.org

ICMPD

Tel.: +43 1 504 467 72418

www.icmpd.org

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