

Iraq

**First National Voluntary Review on Sustainable Development Goals**

**2019**

**(The Triumph of National Will)**



# **Iraq**

## **First National Voluntary Review on Sustainable Development Goals**

**2019**

**(The Triumph of National Will)**

## List of Content

Subject	Page
List of Content	ii
List of Tables	iv
List of Figures	iv
List of Frameworks	vi
<b>1: Introduction</b>	<b>7</b>
1-1: National Context	8
1-2: Iraq and the First VNR	9
1-3: VNR Structure	10
<b>2: First VNR Preparation Process</b>	<b>11</b>
2-1: Principles of the Review	11
2-2: Participation in Preparation	12
2-3: Challenges and Lessons Learned	15
<b>3: Provide Enabling Policy and Appropriate Institutional Environment</b>	<b>17</b>
3-1: Constitution and SDGs	17
3-2: Iraq Vision 2030	18
3-3: NDP 2018-2022 and International SDGs 2015-2030	22
3-4: Government Program 2018-2022 and Global SDGs 2015-2030	24
3-5: SDGs Localization Package	27
3-6: Institutional Framework	28
<b>4: Achievement Challenges</b>	<b>31</b>
4-1: Strategic Challenges	31
4-1-1: Population	31
4-1-2: Iraq's Rentier Economy	32
4-1-3: Political Instability	32
4-1-4: Poor Institutional and Good Governance	32
4-1-5: Reconstruction	33
4-2: Other Challenges	35
4-2-1: Climate Change	35

4-2-2: International and Regional Changes	35
4-2-3: Gender Gap	36
4-2-4: Data Challenge	36
4-2-5: Plans' Implementation Challenges	38
<b>5: Progress in SDGs Achievement</b>	<b>40</b>
5-1: Human Development	41
SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere	41
SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being	45
SDG 4: Quality education	47
SDG 5: Gender Equality	54
SDG 10: Reduce inequality	56
5-2: Good Governance and Safe Society	59
SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institution	60
5-3: Economic Diversification	65
SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth	66
SDG 9: Industry, innovation, and infrastructure	69
5-4: Sustainable Environment	71
SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and communities	72
SDG 13: Environmental action	73
<b>6: Means of Implementation</b>	<b>80</b>
6-1: Capacity-Building	81
6-2: Tripartite Partnership	81
6-3: International Cooperation	82
<b>7: Looking Ahead</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Margins and References</b>	<b>88</b>

## List of Tables

Table	Page
(1) Integration of our national priorities into Iraq Vision 2030 according to the international sustainable development pillars and agenda 2030	20
(2) Localization of the NDP 2018-2022 based on the Global SDGs 2030	24
(3) Localization of the government program components based on the global SDGs and pillars.	26
(4) Poverty rates by region (2014 and 2018)	41
(5) Life expectancy at birth 2014-2018 (year)	46
(6) The value of Gini Index in all regions of Iraq 2012 and 2018	56
(7): Number of intentional homicide and human trafficking victims (except Kurdistan)	60
(8) Unemployment rates (2007-2017)	68
(9) Steps of the National Committee for the period 2019-2022	87

## List of Figures

Figure	Page
(1) Some consultation debates on unemployment and corruption	1
(2) SDGs and Iraq Vision 2030 using RIA	22
(3) SDGs and NDP in Iraq using RIA	23
(4) Organizational structure for monitoring and evaluation	29
(5) The total cost of damaged units by governorate (in billion Iraqi dinars, prices of 2018)	34
(6) The total cost of damaged units by governorate, exclusion of the electricity and oil sectors from Salah al-Din and the General Company for Phosphate from Anbar (in billion Iraqi dinars, prices of 2018)	34

(7): Evaluation of the availability of data about the SDGs in Iraq for the last five years	37
(8) Overall performance of SDGs implementation (2018)	40
(9) Poverty ratio by governorate for 2018 (%)	42
(10) Multidimensional poverty by gender	43
(11) Multidimensional poverty by housing environment	43
(12) Multidimensional poverty by governorate	43
(13) Births conducted by non-specialized staff (2011-2017)	47
(14) Allocation of disabled persons on sex and governance for 2016 (%)	50
(15) SDGs and Poverty Reduction Strategy in Iraq	51
(16) % of Women in the Council of Representatives 2019	54
(17) Rate of poverty according to sex and governance 2016	57
(18) Economic growth and growth in non-oil GDP for 2013-2022	65
(19) Average per capita GDP at current prices 2009-2017	67
(20) FDI in Iraq 2006-2017 (,000 USD) (thousand dollars)	69
(21) GDP contribution of manufacturing (2004-2017)	69
(22) Water use in Iraq 2018	72
(23) Coverage of public services in 2018	73
(24) Net official development assistance and official aid received in Iraq (current value of US \$) (\$ billion)	83

## List of Frameworks

Frame	Page
(1) Activities Supporting VNR Preparation	12
(2) Electronics consultations for sustainable development	16
(3) Urban sprawl	38
(4) Progress toward SDGs achievement in Iraq, internationally	40
(5) Multidimensional poverty in Iraq 2018	42
(6) National Policy for Child Protection Strengthening the national environment for child protection in Iraq	44
(7) No one is left behind: The care for the people with disabilities act No. 38 of 2013	50
(8) Reform of social protection system	52
(9) International agreements related to women's rights ratified by Iraq after 2003	55
(10) Nadia Murad: defending the rights of victims of human trafficking	61
(11) Questionnaire about SDG (16)	62
(12) Strategic projects to support the achievement of the SDGs: the port of Faw	70
(13) Voluntary: the project of planting one million trees	75
(14) Success Story: Green Oasis in the Karbala Desert	77

## 1: Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by all Member States of the United Nations in September 2015, provide a visionary roadmap for all countries and actors to strive for a world of sustainable prosperity, social inclusion and equality while at the same time, protecting our planet resources from inefficient and unfair usage to save them for the coming generations.

When this agenda, its goals, and targets were announced, Iraq was busy fighting terrorist groups and handling the repercussions of the falling crude prices in the international markets. Nevertheless, Iraqis never stopped aspiring to a better future. They tried their best with the Millennium Development Goals and are today resuming work on the SDGs and their targets.

This national review is part of the first National Voluntary Report (NVR) as a national effort and a necessary step to monitor the progress toward the SDGs, using a participatory approach and assisted by national consultations (workshops and forums) organized in various Iraqi areas to discuss the development challenges facing Iraq in the upcoming stages.

The Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) constitute a key tool to monitor the progress of the National Development Plan (NDP) and promote it locally. The VNRs also contribute to presenting the country's experience, expertise and lessons to be shared with other countries.

The Sustainable development agenda 2030 and its goals control the roadmap tracks for all countries which know they have a responsibility to achieve these goals and increase the implementation percentage to build a world in which all enjoy justice, equality, and sustainable prosperity with protecting the planet resources from inefficient and unfair depletion and guaranteeing the right of the current and coming generations to live a high-quality life. Therefore, these goals are universal, inseparable, integrated and interwoven and they attempt to strike a balance among the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development.

This VNR meets these goals and acts as a declaration that Iraq has continuously resumed attempts to return to the global scene, as a strong and healthy nation which enjoys security and peace and aspires to achieve sustainable development distributes its fruits equitably among all categories and areas without any marginalization or exclusion. Therefore, the VNR will be based on the national vision for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which forms the basis for the development efforts in this review.



Iraq was among 49 countries <sup>(i)</sup> who volunteered to take part in the High-Level Political Forum in July 2019 to present its unique development experience especially during war and conflicts and how it clung to life and progress.

Therefore, this VNR, which will be presented at the High-Level Political Forum, will showcase the experience of a strong nation which chose life and development and relied on its people despite the hardships they went through; and just emerged from a vicious conflict with terrorism, a nation which never stopped aspiring to sustainable development even during war and its noise; a nation which shows determination and ambition despite realizing that sustainable development requires exceptional efforts to achieve the needed balance between the economic, social and environmental dimensions and protecting the rights of all people and the future of coming generations and stressing compliance with “not leaving anyone behind.”

## 1-1: National Context

Iraq is an Arab country with an economic rent that relies massively on oil. It has reserves of 148.8 billion barrels (2016), which makes it the fifth largest in the world, while Iraq's annual production ratio is 93.6 years, almost double the world average of 50.6 years.

The tremendous challenges through the last four decades of Iraq's history had devastated infrastructures, resources, and institutions leaving a legacy of violence, war, poverty, instability, weak governance, persistent fragility and loss of many of the foundations of community peace. The situation in the country had been exacerbated due to the growth of corruption, economic mismanagement and the loss of strategic orientation in the development process and reconstruction efforts. However, Iraq has opportunities to ensure the well-being of all its citizens and to ensure the improvement of its economic conditions for its natural, human and cultural resources. The huge oil resources have exacerbated the conflict regarding the control over state resources, power and influence, rather than contributing to the development of society an economy, it contributed to the creation of divisions within the society and put macroeconomic stability to further instability. This is reflected badly in the indicators of the human and economic development, Tens of thousands of civilian casualties have died since 2003, more than 5 million have been displaced and about 20% of the population needs assistance. Children also need special attention due to the exceptional circumstances they have experienced, especially in the community of displaced and rural people, where a large proportion of them receiving low-quality education and health. Women suffered from conditions of insecurity and a reduction in their gains during the modern state, they suffered as men did from the lack of opportunities in the field of employment and income-earning. More problems can be expected in light of the high population growth, which offers an opportunity derived from the demographic gift despite the threat of losing it in case of the effectiveness of previous policies.

In 2015, Iraq ranked 121<sup>th</sup> out of the 188 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI) and ranked less than other countries in the region (Lebanon 76, Jordan 86,

Tunisia 97). Decades of wars, international sanctions, violence, lack of political stability and the financial constraints had severely affected the capacities of the health and education sectors in terms of service. The indicators of children and mother care and education did not reflect the MDG <sup>(ii)</sup>.

With the deadline set for the completion of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015, Iraq was busy in its battle against terrorist organizations and the repercussions of the decline in crude oil prices in international markets. The final outcome of the developmental achievement that achieved within the framework of MDGs had been identified along with the challenges the country faced in a new era and the opportunities provided by agenda 2030 as a framework that should last for a decade and a half.

There is an urgent need to repositioning the development paths in Iraq after it is emergence from these economic and humanitarian crises. The victory over terrorist organizations can provide a historic opportunity to reposition the path of development in the country towards sustainability and to put the human being at its center. However, the regain of peace and security, the reconstruction efforts, the strengthening of state authority and the rebuilding of social capital require increased in the expenditures of public and private and investment in development projects that the country needs, with a focus on the liberated and poorer areas

## 1-2: Iraq and the First VNR

The VNR seeks to achieve a series of national goals including:

- Stress Iraq's intention to continue working to return to the global stage and achieve sustainable development whose fruits are distributed fairly among all categories and areas without any marginalization or exclusion.
- Identify the challenges facing achieving the SDGs particularly those related to the SDP and its possible competition with the nationally urgent expenditure and reconstruction requirements in an unstable environment.
- Provide a brief description of the progress made toward the SDGs and their indicators on the national level and the steps which will be taken by the government and its partners in this regard.
- Enhance the participation policies and institutions and translate the global goals into national ones which help take measures to bring about the intended transformation according to the SDGs 2030.
- Promote the SDGs nationally, arouse the interest of the public opinion and the government and gain their support and that of international donors and organizations which can help Iraq overcome the difficulties it is facing.
- Build a compact SDGs database and identify the current data gap to guide future statistical efforts and provide appropriate data.

- Provide quantified tracking of Iraq’s progress toward sustainable development and identify the challenges facing its goals and targets based on the national priorities, while taking into consideration the development efforts provided in the NDP and sector strategies which help achieve many of the NDP objectives in line with Iraq Vision 2030.
- Share Iraq’s experience with other countries to exchange expertise and experiences to enrich the international expertise.

### 1-3: VNR Structure

The VNR consists of seven chapters. The first chapter is an introduction which presents the national context and the general conditions which Iraq is going through and its readiness to complete the first voluntary national reviews and the structure of these reviews. The second chapter presents the national taken actions on the preparation of the report and its principles, participatory processes, stakeholder integration, and the most important challenges and lessons learned from it. The third chapter highlights the documents that support the sustainable development process, foremost of which is the Constitution, Iraq Vision 2030, National Development Plan 2018 - 2022 and the Ministerial Platform, as well as the institutional framework for achieving the sustainable development goals. Chapter four includes strategic challenges: population growth, the nature of the rentier Economy, political instability, weak institutional performance and the elements of good governance, and reconstruction. And other challenges that include: climate change, global and regional change, gender gap, data challenge, and the operational challenge of plans. Chapter fifth deals with national progress in the set of goals corresponding to the national priorities identified by Iraq Vision 2030, which include: human development, good governance and safe society, diversification of the economy and sustainable environment. The sixth chapter, entitled “After the Review”, indicated the means of implementation of the sustainable development goals at national level and the roles of the partners in achieving them. The last chapter entitled "Looking Forward" pointed out that the process of preparing the review and its fruits should not end once it is presented at the High-Level Political Forum and that it should continue beyond the international event through integrated activities to ensure the sustainability of the goals for which the voluntary review was prepared.

## 2: First VNR Preparation Process

This VNR was jointly prepared by a wide range of Iraqi officials and experts led by the Ministry of Planning (MoP) which supervised the VNR drafting process in cooperation with local and federal entities, the parliament, the private sector, and NGOs. The UNDP provided technical support which was useful in all the VNR preparation stages. The government compliance with the SDGs generated new, official and non-official, visions and perceptions on the federal and local levels which encouraged higher participation in the development efforts and started societal awareness about these goals and the importance of integrating them into the local and national policies, strategies and plans.

### 2-1: Principles of the Review

In line with the VNR methodology which is consistently, successfully and comprehensively based on the key global follow-up and review processes which were developed in accordance with Paragraph 90 of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and other important guiding documents, the VNR is built on a number of principles:

- **Voluntariness:** Iraq's announcement that it is willing to share its achievements and learned lessons during implementation was optional and voluntary.
- **Participatory Approach:** Adopt a participatory approach in all the preparation stages to achieve the VNR objectives and expand the national ownership of its content.
- **Integration of all:** The SDGs integration and high-level networking will improve the quality of the exerted efforts to achieve the goals as a whole rather than separately.
- **Inclusion:** We will leave no one behind. The VNR shall cover all people, taking all gender and geographic areas into consideration.
- **Quality:** Adopting the international reporting standards and the messages proposed by the VNR to achieve the intended purposes is key to improve the content quality.
- **Responsibility:** The fact that the VNR is based on many national documents including the constitution, Iraq Vision 2030, the government program and the NDP as key resources enhances the national responsibility for implementation.
- **Exchanging Expertise:** Presenting our experience internationally will pave the way to exchange expertise with other countries, accumulate experiences and improve our vision based on appropriate priorities to achieve our national and international SDGs.

## 2-2: Participation in the Preparation

The Iraqi government believes that achieving the national SDGs represents an opportunity to empower a wider group of national actors, enhance national dialogue and strengthen the cooperation opportunities on a wider scale in the sustainable development road. It is led by the principle of “not leaving anyone behind” which is the guiding principle the SDGs. The discussions, debates, and workshops have contributed to many of the VNR different topics particularly those which gathered representatives from different society categories including academia, civil society, the private sector, women, young people, and the parliament. While the government acts as the implementer and coordinator of the national SDGs, its tasks also include facilitating and supporting the sustainable development initiatives implemented by the civil society organizations, universities, trade, and commercial unions, partners and the other stakeholders.

The Iraqi government took a series of measures to stress its commitment to achieving the SDGs. The MoP is instrumental in coordinating, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs in Iraq. A national committee for sustainable development was formed to coordinate with all ministries and institutions to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with strong cooperation with the private sector, civil society and local and international community organizations.

### Framework 1: Activities Supporting VNR Preparation

Early in 2016, the Iraqi government adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and took serious steps to enhance awareness about its significance, goals, and targets.

- The first workshop entitled “Good Governance and Sustainable Development Goals” was held on January 31-February 6, 2016 in Istanbul with support from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) and the participation of the ministries of planning, municipalities, industry, education, higher education and transport and the National Center for Administrative Development and Information Technology. The workshop aimed to assess the progress of the UN Millennium Goals on the international level and in the Arab countries and explain good governance and its indicators. Based on the workshop outputs, the National Center for Administrative Development and Information Technology organized two training workshops, the first for ministries and the second for governorates.

- The first conference was held in November 2016 to launch the Iraq Vision 2030 at the Mansour Hotel in the presence of hundreds of scientific and intellectual figures. The conference focused on the themes of vision (good governance, economic, social and environmental), and discussed dozens of research and studies specialized in various groups and the issuance of pamphlets

and reports highlighted the aspects addressed by the conference with the launch of the first draft of the Iraq Vision 2030.

- In 2017, the MoP represented Iraq in all international conferences on sustainable development and presented updates on the SDGs 2030. The national committee coordinated with the related entities from within and outside the ministry to attend these conferences based on their specialties.

- A workshop was organized about integrating the SDGs into the NDP in Baghdad on March 4-7, 2018 in which the governorates of Basra, Anbar, and Karbala took part. This workshop has led the three governorates to prepare their local reports for sustainable development, and these reports are expected to be completed during the current year.

- The workshop of the SDGs and identifying the priorities of Iraq Vision 2030 was organized on October 3-4, 2018 at the MoP, with the participation of more than 60 specialists and representatives from various ministries and civil society organizations to evaluate and discuss the alignment of the development plan and the vision of Iraq 2030 with the goals and targets of sustainable development, through the use of the Rapid Integration Assessment (RIA), an approach developed by the UNDP to analyze the National Development Plan indicators and the SDGs to be used in the VNR. This tool is the basis for prioritizing the sustainable development targets and assessing the level of alignment between the NDP goals and Iraq Vision 2030.

- Erbil workshop October 7-8, 2018, with the participation of 20 representatives of the ministries of the region and discussed the harmonization of (vision of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq: a vision for the future) and the new economic reform road map developed by the provincial government.

- A workshop on prioritizing the environmental SDG targets in Iraq Vision 2030 at the MoP on October 24-25, 2018 in cooperation with the UNDP. It aimed to identify the prioritized environmental SDG targets for Iraq and interconnection with the other targets based on the current baselines and environmental developments and risks. It was attended by the environmental sustainability teams in the ministries and the related entities.

- Two workshops were organized in coordination with the UNDP on November 26-29 at the Ministry of Planning in Baghdad. The first was entitled "Towards a Roadmap to the First Voluntary National Report in Iraq" and the second one was entitled "Work on the Poverty Reduction Strategy in Iraq" to explore the ways of alignment with the SDGs and enhancing integration in the implementation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the NDP and the Development and Reconstruction Policy in the post-conflict stage.

- A workshop on building the capacities of monitoring and implementing the SDGs 2030 was held in coordination between the MoP and the UN Resident Coordinator, Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Representative of the UNDP in Iraq at Al-Rasheed Hotel on November 28-29, 2018.

- Some members of parliament took part in a workshop held on January 24, 2019, on the role of parliament in achieving the SDGs 2030.

- A workshop entitled “Localizing SDGs and Goal 16” in Erbil on February 12-13, 2019 with the participation of representatives from the governorates of Anbar, Basra, Karbala and Kurdistan Region.

- A consultation session was held in Baghdad on April 6, 2019, with the members of parliament. It was attended by the first deputy head of parliament. The session endorsed the mechanisms for the participation of members of the House of Representatives and heads of parliamentary committees in the national efforts for sustainable development and the national commitment to achieve the 2030 agenda and promote it among the members of the Council and identify the roles of stakeholders in the development process.

- A delegation headed by the Minister of Planning participated in the Arab Forum of Sustainable Development held in Beirut on April 9-11, 2019.

- A national conference was held on May 2, 2019, on Iraq’s preparation to present its VNR on the progress made in the SDGs at the High-Level Political Forum. The participants included representatives from ministries, governorates, universities, civil society organizations and the private sector.

- A consultation session on the Iraq Vision 2030 and the draft of the voluntary national review and the role of the private sector in them, held on May 16, 2019, were discussed, in which the private sector observations were taken to the voluntary review in preparation for its finalization.

- A workshop organized by the Ministry of Planning in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program to discuss the final version of the VNR, which was held at the Ministry of Planning for May 22-23, 2019. The final version of the review was adopted after the views, proposals, and aspirations of stakeholders and some international experts who read the preliminary version of the VNR; and to integrate their views and aspirations into the final version of the review.

The importance of those workshops and meetings lies in the fact that they provided an opportunity to understand the roles to be played by ministries, governorates, and stakeholders in implementing the SDGs, and including their views and visions in the final review.

## 2-3: Challenges and Lessons Learned

The first voluntary review on sustainable development goals represents a unique national experience for Iraq and has provided a number of lessons, including:

- The preparation process represented an important opportunity to exchange views and experiences on how to achieve development and integrate the sustainable development plan with the national vision and plans within a strategic framework for national development action.
- The preparation of the review came in the midst of a special stage in the history of the country and its society, revealed the depth of community commitment to development and the desire to develop and continue the process of progress at a confident pace.
- An important lesson learned is the importance of integrating local levels into the reporting process because they have a role to play in reaching the categories that should not be left behind.

However, the process of preparing the review also faced challenges, including:

- Ensure that all stakeholders are well aware and including their visions and perceptions of sustainable development and its plan; so new mechanisms have to be created to hear and allow the voices to be heard, including electronic consultations conducted for the review. (See: Framework 2)
- The data challenge, coverage, and classification by gender and environment (rural/urban) and governorate remain challenging despite efforts to provide them. The data gap may have prevented the review from highlighting various aspects of people's situations and government actions to improve them (<sup>1</sup>).

---

<sup>1</sup> See section 4-4: Data Challenge



## Framework 2: Electronics consultations for sustainable development

Electronic consultations and expansion of the prospects for community dialogue on the sustainable development goals, and issues raised by the development process in Iraq, has raised a range of issues for discussion, in which dozens of people participated from different governorates of Iraq, especially young people, which illuminated various aspects of their aspirations and concerns, and what they want from the process of development in the country.

Figure (1): Some consultation debates on unemployment and corruption

**A** Abass Noori - 1 month ago  
اتفق مع الاستاذ احمد بأن الفساد هو من الاسباب الرئيسية التي تعرقل وتعيق التنمية في مختلف المجالات ولكن الاخطر والاهم هو قبول الفساد والرضوخ للفاستدين ان معالجة البطالة تحتاج اليات جديدة اعادة بناء الصناعة الوطنية وتشجيع الزراعة ، والقطاع الخاص اي مبادرة وكل مبادرة ستكون مفيدة

**R** Rusul Ahmad - 1 month ago  
انا لست مع توفير المزيد من الوظائف في القطاع العام فاصلا هناك ترهلا وظيفيا واضحا في معظم القطاعات وانخفاض في مستوى الاداء ونادرا ما نجد اي ابداع او تفوق اعتقد نحتاج ثورة ادارية حقيقية لكي نعالج مشكلة البطالة والمفروض تبدا من الانسان نفسه وتعديل نظم التعليم حتى نخرج كوادر بشرية مفيدة ومنتجة ، ربما سيستغرب البعض ولكنه راي الشخصي : ان الفقر ليس قدر محتوم فالانسان المجتهد واللي بحارب من اجل مستقبله ويخلق الفرص التي من خلالها يمكن يقيده نفسه وحياته وعائلته لن يجد نفسه وحيدا او سفلسا ، اعتقد ان عقل الانسان وطاقته هي الموارد الحقيقية لذا فالمشكلة الحالية في العراق هي المنظومة القيمية التي تحتاج الى اعادة بناء على كل الاصعدة

 Hayder Murtadha • مدير at مركز آدم لسياسات الاقتصاد المستدام from Iraq · 1 month ago  
:تحية طيبة، انا حيدر مرتضى، مركز آدم لسياسات الاقتصاد المستدام  
لتشجيع القطاع الخاص، ومن ثم بعدها تشجيع الشباب على العمل في القطاع الخاص، هناك مقدمات، على مستوى سياسات الاقتصاد الكلي، سواء آكانت سياسات مالية (خفض الضرائب)، أو سياسات نقدية (خفض الفائدة)، أو سياسات هيكلية (سن القوانين التي تيسير العمل الخاص)..  
أما بخصوص تشجيع الشباب للانخراط بالعمل الخاص، فنحن نحتاج إلى منح القطاع الخاص نفس الامتيازات التي يتمتع بها القطاع العام، ومنها (الضمان الاجتماعي)، ولتفعيل (الضمان الاجتماعي) نحتاج إلى تعاون القطاع الخاص غير المسجل رسميا، يخشى الحكومة، ويعتبرها غولا يريد أن يسرقه  
لذا من الضروري ان تعطي الحكومة والقطاع العام التضمنات الكافية للقطاع الخاص لكي يتعاون معه على صعيد البيانات وعلى صعيد التوظيف  
وهذه التضمنات تأتي من سياسات استراتيجية بعيدة الاجل، وإعلام يستطيع ان يفهم القطاع الخاص العراقي المتواضع في إمكانياته الإدارية بان التعاون سيصب بمصلحته أولاً  
وكل هذا يحتاج إلى نوايا صادقة! من الجهات المعنية في الحكومة

### 3: Provide Enabling Policy and Appropriate Institutional Environment

#### 3-1: Constitution and SDGs

The constitution is the highest legislation which identifies the society regulation foundations and the nature of the relationship among its components. The constitution impacts the social, political, economic and cultural conditions of the society and identifies the social contract and the rights and duties governing society. The development, injustice, economic and social rights in work and social insurance are values which are highlighted in the 2005 constitution i.e. a decade before the SDGs were announced in September 2015. Accordingly, the constitution is largely harmonious with the SDGs. It provides for articles which enhance good governance, equality, human rights and inclusion of all categories and nationalities. The constitution represents an improvement in the fields of human rights, education, health, social protection and the right to development. It includes texts which enhance governance, equality, and power separation. It can be argued that the constitution protects the rights of all and leave no individual or social category behind.

- Equal Opportunities: Article 16 provides that “Equal opportunities shall be guaranteed to all Iraqis, and the state shall ensure that the necessary measures to achieve this are taken.”
- Right to Work: Article 22/First provides that “Work is a right for all Iraqis in a way that guarantees a dignified life for them” and Article 22/Second provides that “The law shall regulate the relationship between employees and employers on economic bases and while observing the rules of social justice.”
- Freedom of Association: Article 22/Third provides that “The State shall guarantee the right to form and join unions and professional associations.”
- Fair Taxation: Article 28/Second provides that “Low-income earners shall be exempted from taxes in a way that guarantees the preservation of the minimum income required for living.”
- Focus on investment in education, health, and development of human skills. Article 31/First provides that “The State shall maintain public health.” While Article 34 mentioned that “Education is a right guaranteed by the state... The State shall encourage scientific research for peaceful purposes that serve humanity and shall support excellence, creativity...”
- Adopt an appropriate social spending policy according to which the state provides basic social services, build the necessary social safety networks, empower people and build their capacities. Article 30/Second provides that:

“The State shall guarantee social and health security to Iraqis in cases of old age, sickness, employment disability, homelessness, orphan-hood, or unemployment, shall work to protect them from ignorance, fear, and poverty, and shall provide them housing and special programs of care and rehabilitation.”

- Protect the environment and biodiversity: Article 33 included that "everyone has the right to live in peaceful environmental conditions" (first) and that "the state shall ensure the protection and preservation of the environment and biological diversity".

### 3-2: Iraq Vision 2030

The Iraq Vision “**empowered people in a safe country, a unified society with diversified economy, sustainable environment, justice, and good governance**” is based on the sustainable development dimensions which meet our aspirations for empowered people in a safe and unified country, a society in which all have equal rights, an economic system with diversified social market orientation and highly stable macroeconomic indicators and creating a clean, safe and sustainable environment for the current and coming generations. The aim is to achieve sustainable improvement in the quality of life, ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns, reduce the repercussions of pollution and climate change and enhance the biodiversity protection through governmental institutions which guarantee the respect of political, civil and human rights of people to reach the required tracks and achieve equality for all citizens.

## Iraq Vision 2030

“Empowered people in a secure country, unified society, diversified economy and sustainable environment who enjoy justice and good governance”



Building the spirit, the brain and the healthy body to build generations that are capable of innovation, creativity and achievement



Effective administrative institutions that ensure respect of political, civil and humanitarian rights and justice, where all are equal before the law



A diversified social market economy that creates decent jobs and guarantees economic well-being with participatory management between the public and private sectors to enhance the potential of the Iraqi economy.



A secure society providing peace for all members and enhancing the values of citizenship, solidarity and achievement



Safe and sustainable environment for present and future generations through integrating the culture of environment in development plans and policies to achieve sustainable improvement in the quality of life, ensure sustainable production and consumption patterns and reduce the impact of pollution and climate change.

The vision embraces a new social contract between the state and its citizens to enhance their trust in the government and provide opportunities for self-development, work and generating income. The state seeks to develop the economic activities and pave the way of reforms which tackle the past challenges and provide the needed development strategies and plans which are capable of solving the past and present problems and the expected future risks in light of the national capacities with ensuring strong development mechanisms which positively impact the achievement percentage of the global SDGs.













Iraq's promising success story will be translated on the ground during the coming decade supported by its strengths including resilience, determination, a strong will, and liveliness.



















## Our Strengths

- A societal will to change and reform enhanced by a strong system of values and a cultural heritage.
- A national will to progress based on the citizenship principle.
- An institutional dedication to development despite insecurity, instability, and violence.
- Announcing a collection of national documents which respond to the sustainable development track and aspire to a better future.
- The abundance of the production elements, resources especially the human ones enjoy high capacities and capabilities.
- Investment opportunities with comparative advantages in the sector and area development.

Reference: Iraq Vision 2030

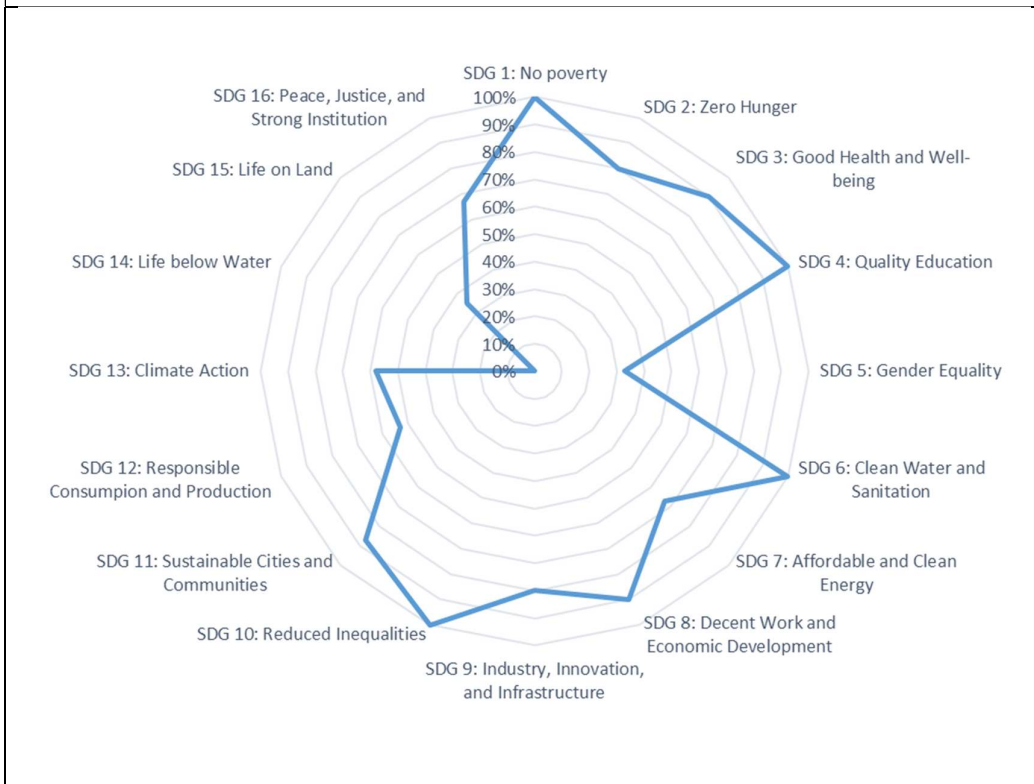
Table (1): Integration of our national priorities into Iraq Vision 2030 according to the international sustainable development pillars and agenda 2030

National Vision and International Pillars	National and International Goals
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Man Building - People</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Build generations who are capable of innovation, creation, and achievement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alleviate poverty </li> <li>- Create decent and protected jobs for all people </li> <li>- High quality and inclusive education sector. </li> <li>- Efficient and inclusive healthcare system. </li> <li>- Provide decent housing and end informal settlements. </li> </ul>
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Sustainable Environment - the planet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Create a clean, safe and sustainable environment for the current and future generations through incorporating environment in the development plans and policies to achieve a sustainable improvement in the human life quality, ensure the sustainability of the production and consumption patterns and reduce the repercussions of environment pollution and climate changes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduce environment pollution and climate changes. </li> <li>- Efficient use of water resources. </li> <li>- Environmental conservation. </li> <li>- Develop the consumption and production patterns towards environmental sustainability. </li> <li>- Protect biodiversity and revive the Mesopotamian marshes. </li> </ul>

 <p>Diversified economy, Prosperity, and Partnership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A diversified social market economy which generates decent jobs and provides an economic welfare level with joint management of the public and private sectors to enhance the Iraqi economy capacities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High and sustainable economic growth rate. </li> <li>- Increase the oil sector efficiency </li> <li>- Strong private sector which contributes to development. </li> <li>- Develop the agricultural sector and achieve food security. </li> <li>- Developed infrastructure. </li> <li>- Active and well-governed financial sector. </li> </ul>
 <p>Good Governance, Justice, and Peace</p> <p>Active administrative institutions which ensure the respect of political, civil and human rights, justice and equality for all citizens.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uphold the rule of law and access to justice and enhance the good governance foundations </li> <li>- Improve administrative decentralization and public participation in decision-making. </li> <li>- Integrity, transparency and fighting corruption </li> <li>- Reform public financial administration and achieve financial sustainability. </li> </ul>
 <p>Peace</p> <p>Safe Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A safe society in which all enjoy peace.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enhance the culture of tolerance and community peace. </li> <li>- Appropriate development of families, women and vulnerable categories. </li> <li>- Enhance the values of citizenship and reduce the aspects of inequality. </li> <li>- Establish the values of achievement, initiative and voluntary work. </li> <li>- Sustainable solutions for displacement and internal and external migrations. </li> </ul>

The vision aspirations, priorities, and goals responding to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires continuous national efforts to enhance accountability and effectiveness on all governmental levels and institutions and in the making and implementation of public policies. That was a key requirement to enhance the citizens' trust in the state, reduce the risks of a renewed violence cycle, establish the foundations for a well-functioning democracy and an economy led by the private sector. Therefore, the ethical commitment was officially announced to implement the global SDGs 2015-2030. When comparing the SDGs with the vision, we find that 74% of the goals are covered by the vision. Therefore, the starting point was the third NDP 2018-2022.

Figure (2): SDGs and Iraq Vision 2030 using RIA



Regarding the Kurdistan Region, the KRG’s Vision 2020 aligned with SDGs by 71%. The vision includes an ambitious program to diversify the economy of the region, to overcome the obstacles facing the private sector, support industrial and agricultural production, reduce dependence on imports, increase the scope of financial inclusion, Reducing the number of employment in the public sector and support small projects as well as emphasizing the need of the region to develop the system of social protection, and anti-corruption. On the other hand, the findings of the review indicate that there is a great harmony in the strategic priorities of Iraq and the region in terms of visions, the development plans and SDGs, including the focus on Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development (SDG16), with some gaps in the issues of participation and environmental sustainability in addition to the lack of adequate data for monitoring and evaluation.

### 3-3: NDP 2018-2022 and International SDGs 2015-2030

The Decision of Council of Ministers No. 209 of 2016 acts as the implementation framework for the NDP 2018-2022 to reduce the implications of the terrorist groups’ occupation of some governorates and the falling crude oil prices in the global markets and the consequent sharp fall in Iraq’s financial revenues. The plan adopted the motto “build an effective, developed and socially responsible state”

through opting for a balanced growth of all production sectors based on policies which improve the assets enhancing the infrastructure activities and directing investments based on sectors and geographical areas according to the comparative advantage standard and the optimal use of oil revenues to diversify the economy. The plan consists of 11 goals: Good governance, economic reform, recovery of affected communities, expand investments and the role of the private sector, increase economic growth rate, increase actual income per capita, decrease unemployment rates, empower “fragile” categories, improve the situation of the sustainable human development, enhance decentralization and spatial development <sup>(iii)</sup>.

Seventy-seven percent of the SDGs were incorporated into the NDP 2018-2022 which confirms that the plan can be an effective tool to achieve these goals on the medium term.

Figure (3): SDGs and NDP in Iraq using RIA

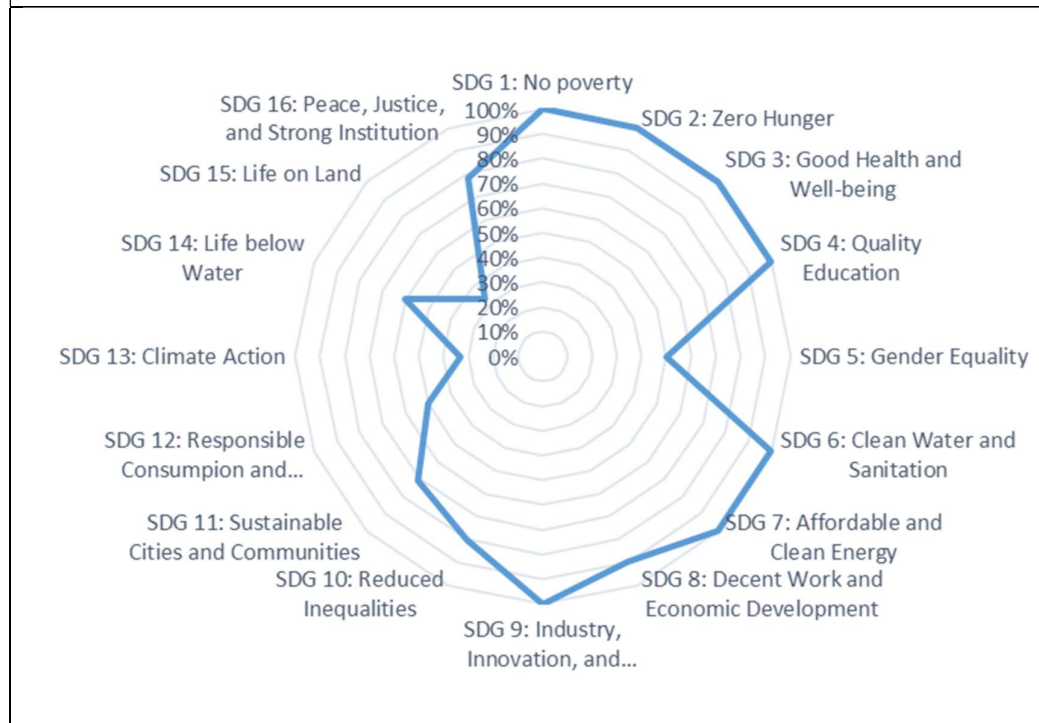




Table (2): Localization of the NDP 2018-2022 based on the Global SDGs 2030

SDGs localization	SDGs localization
<p><b>Good governance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Rule of law and access to justice</li> <li>○ Decentralization and local government</li> <li>○ Integrity, transparency and accountability</li> <li>○ Effective participation</li> <li>○ e-governance</li> </ul>	<p><b>Poverty alleviation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Higher and sustainable income</li> <li>○ Improved health</li> <li>○ Better education for the poor</li> <li>○ Adequate housing and an environment responsive to challenges</li> <li>○ Comprehensive social protection</li> <li>○ Promote and enable social integration of IDPs</li> </ul>
<p><b>Private sector and growth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increase the private sector contribution to development indicators</li> <li>○ Improve business and investment environment</li> <li>○ Develop SMEs</li> <li>○ Restructure state-owned enterprises</li> <li>○ Private sector governance</li> </ul>	<p><b>Human and Social Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Education</li> <li>○ Health</li> <li>○ Women</li> <li>○ Youth</li> <li>○ Social development</li> <li>○ Vulnerable groups</li> </ul>
<p><b>Governorate reconstruction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Introduce an efficient administrative and financial system</li> <li>○ Rehabilitate infrastructure - full coverage</li> <li>○ Revive economic activities</li> <li>○ Strengthen human immunity</li> </ul>	<p><b>Environmental sustainability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Protect and improve air quality</li> <li>○ Protect and improve water quality</li> <li>○ Reduce land degradation and combat desertification</li> <li>○ Develop and improve the waste management system</li> <li>○ Control radioactive contamination</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sector and spatial development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduce spatial variance among governorates</li> <li>○ Reduce civilizational disparity between rural and urban areas</li> <li>○ Enhance participation and decentralization in the management of development</li> <li>○ Address the informal settlement issue</li> <li>○ Activate urban management and organize cities</li> <li>○ Increase the growth rate of non-oil GDP</li> <li>○ Increase the GDP contribution of agriculture and industry</li> </ul>	

### 3-4: Government Program 2018-2022 and Global SDGs 2015-2030

According to article 76 / Fourth of the Constitution, each Prime Minister of the Council of Ministers shall submit to the Council of Representatives the ministerial platform and the candidates of his government. The legislative elections were held on May 12, 2018, and the new government was formed in October. It announced an aspiring program which covers the government constitutional period. It is clearly in harmony with national and global SDGs. It declares that the roadmap to achieve the SDGs forms one of the program foundations and it helped specify its pillars and priorities. In addition, the platform was inspired by the basic national development





documents, in particular, the National Development Plan 2018-2022, Iraq Vision 2030 and the Poverty Reduction Strategy. The Ministerial Platform has counted the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda among the documents it has adopted as a national commitment.

The government program consisted of five components:

- First: Finish building the foundations of the federal state and the democratic, republic system of representative government.
- Second: Uphold the rule of order and law and enhance internal and external security.
- Third: Optimal investment of energy and water resources.
- Fourth: Enhance the economy.
- Fifth: Human and societal development services.

These five components respond to the five pillars of sustainable development and the global SDGs 2030 to enhance the ethical commitment to the global development plan, face the development challenges and improve the percentages of goal achievement. The Platform emphasizes on forward-looking areas of planning, taking into consideration that no one is left behind, efforts to empower women and youth, equality achievement, improve ecosystems and to cope with climate change.

Table (3): Localization of the government program components based on the global SDGs and pillars.

Localization of themes		Localization of themes	
 <p>Peace People</p>		 <p>Peace</p>	
<p><b>Theme I: Complete the foundations of the unified federal state</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Activate the letters and spirit of the constitution</li> <li>○ Activate ministry regulations</li> <li>○ Develop governance regulations</li> <li>○ Strengthen national cohesion</li> <li>○ Respond vigorously to prevent the misuse of freedoms and harm to the public right</li> </ul>		<p><b>Theme II: Rule of law and order and enhancing homeland and foreign security</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fight terrorism</li> <li>○ Enforce the law</li> <li>○ Combat corruption and public waste</li> <li>○ Enhance reliance on smart and electronic systems</li> </ul>	
 <p>The globe</p>		 <p>Prosperity Partnership</p>	
<p><b>Theme III: Optimal use of energy and water resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Continuous development of oil production capacity</li> <li>○ Accelerate the development and expansion of storage, transport and loading capacity</li> <li>○ Active role in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)</li> <li>○ Review Iraq's water policy</li> <li>○ Start the project of lining branch water channels</li> <li>○ Clean river beds and reduce water pollution</li> </ul>		<p><b>Theme IV: Strengthen the economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Promote the Made-in-Iraq concept</li> <li>○ Import substitution policies</li> <li>○ Export promotion</li> <li>○ Reduce exposure to the world</li> <li>○ Expand the modern village model</li> <li>○ Encourage agricultural investments</li> <li>○ Encourage moder agriculture</li> <li>○ Include the poor in social care</li> </ul>	
 <p>People Partnership The globe</p>			
<p><b>Theme V: Human and community services and development.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Realize comprehensive development</li> <li>○ Encourage the private sector to build schools</li> <li>○ Global ranking of Iraqi universities - a goal and indicator of the quality of higher education</li> <li>○ Improve the health system in Iraq</li> <li>○ Attention to Iraqi youth</li> <li>○ Attention to Iraqi children</li> <li>○ Enhance the capacities of the health sector including performance monitoring and evaluation</li> <li>○ Build recycling plants</li> <li>○ Complete and construct projects strengthening the physical and human infrastructures</li> <li>○ IDPs return</li> </ul>			

### 3-5: Goals Localization Package

The goals incorporated in Iraq Vision , plans, programs and strategies which have specific goals and are related achieving the SDGs do not reflect the ability to achieve high consistency under the current planning environment due to the lack of mechanisms to oblige the ministries and the local governments to connect their plans with the SDGs and lack of indicators to measure the achievement of the economic goals and policies and what they actually achieve of the SDGs. A wide range of national monitoring indicators should be provided to spot the agreement/diversion from the SDGs to reach an actual and effective monitoring system to assess the implementation of the national goals and the SDGs.

Localization of sustainable development goals at the local level is a pilot phase in many countries. In Iraq, it has been initiated in three governorates: Basra, Karbala, and Anbar, which have made progress in integrating the goals into their local plans and programs. They are preparing their first local reports on sustainable development goals, that be hoped to be completed in 2019. To be followed by other provinces, in the next two years, according to the following steps:

- Establish a local team in the governorate.
- Conducting consultation meetings and sessions with stakeholders.
- Collecting data and required statistics for monitoring and evaluation.



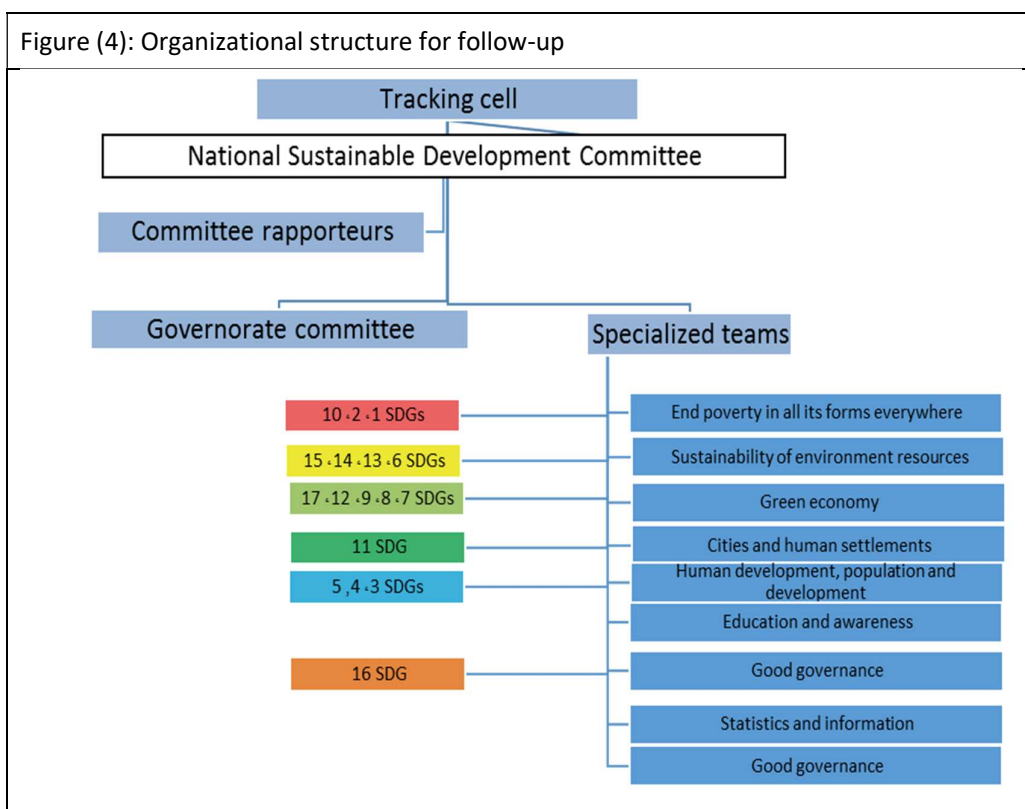
### 3-6: Institutional Framework

It is difficult to imagine achieving SDGs without efficient government coordination and institutionalizing the development effort to support planning, implementation, and follow-up. Hence, it is important to adopt a policy that will ensure the right path to achieving the SDGs and take into account the challenges facing the country and how to mobilize national resources to achieve the required progress. Such coordination must ensure that all stakeholders are involved in the development process under government leadership and that the right combination of SDGs is achieved with national development plans and policies.

The mop is responsible for the strategic frameworks in the economy, laying the foundations for economic development and future policies and plans. Therefore, MoP has sought to create an institutional framework to follow up the SDGs implementation at the federal and local levels to translate the outputs of follow-up, monitoring, and evaluation reports into national and sectoral strategies and plans in all government institutions. Thus, the vision of Iraq will be an umbrella and a road map for the path of sustainable development. The ministry works to pursue SDGs, targets, and indicators through the National Commission for Sustainable Development, chaired by the Minister of Planning. The institutional framework for sustainable development includes the following:

- **Monitoring committee:** Formed by presidential decree 19 of 2016, headed by the minister of planning and. The committee includes members of ministries, representatives of civil society organizations and private sector and experts from universities. its role is to guide programs and policies to achieve the goals and submit them to the council of ministers to approve them and obligate ministries and local governments to implement them. The committee acts as a consultative body between the government, civil society and the private sector to develop visions of future development that meet Iraq's future needs, achieve SDGs, open cooperation and communication between them and advise National Commission for Sustainable Development.
- **National Commission for Sustainable Development:** Headed by the minister of planning and represented by all the relevant ministries, with 27 members including director generals and experts, its mission is to monitor the SDGs and prepare a national report on the achievements through its specialized teams. Each team follows a specific set of goals. The NCS D reports to the Monitoring Committee.
- **Governorate committees for sustainable development:** national committees headed by the governor and his technical assistant as vice-chairman. The members include the environment director in the governorate, representative of agriculture, representative of water resources, representative of municipalities, the governorate planning department of MoP, governorate university chairman and representatives of the private sector and civil society with the secretariat of the committee. The chairman has the right to add members from the relevant authorities depending on each governorate

conditions. Its mission is to monitor the achievement of SDGs and indicators at the governorate level and submit its report to NCSD.



One of the important challenges related to the institutional framework is the capacity gap of the ability between the governorates to activate this framework and to provide the required momentum to keep the development process on the track in each governorate and achieve local coordination in accordance with national priorities.

The institutional frame undertakes the following activities:

- Coordinate national efforts to achieve commitment to goals.
- Review the progress at the highest levels of leadership to provide a sustainable mechanism to follow up on this progress and assess how national and sectoral plans fit within goals.
- Localize goals and integrate it into national development documents.
- Find effective solutions to the problems that arise in implementing the goals.

CSO can play an active role in collecting, tabulating and sharing target data with stakeholders, as well as in collecting other economic indicators, focusing on qualitative indicators and indicators identified by the national target data gap.

In order to improve the institutional coordination, we look forward to enhancing coordination to the level of a national committee for sustainable development headed by Prime Minister and includes ministers concerned with the development process (planning, finance, higher education, education, health...)

## 4: SDGs Achievement Challenges

The sustainable development efforts coincide with the efforts of reconstruction and tackling the post-conflict issues after defeating the terrorist groups which undermined civil peace, destroyed infrastructure, damaged the state and governance institutions and forced them to return to the war economy. Although this situation might carry a historical opportunity which can be invested to bring about a positive change after defeating these terrorist groups, it generated a new political, economic and social reality and a new level of political conflict about the governance form and mechanisms and the need to reconsider the political system foundations which governance is based on since 2003.

Today, Iraq is experiencing a unique situation. In 2003, it went through dramatic changes which impacted its political, economic, social and environmental conditions. Some have gone as far as predicting the destruction of the state, its institutions, and social contract. Its crisis reached its zenith in mid-2014 when the terrorist groups occupied about one-third of the country and threatened its social fabric, institutional structure, and development future. However, the Iraqis, including all their components, came together to liberate their country without forgetting the importance of development and change towards a better future.

### 4-1: Strategic Challenges

#### 4-1-1: Population

One of these challenges is the high population growth. The annual population growth reaches 1 million and based on the 2018 estimates, Iraq's population reached about 38,141 million <sup>(iv)</sup>. It is estimated that it will rise to 53 million by 2030, considering a growth rate of 2.4%. Therefore, this population growth rate represents a serious challenge to making progress in poverty eradication and reducing unemployment, particularly among young people. It also put pressures on resources and public services, causes over-urbanization and aggravates the informal settlements problem.

The population dynamics will have a critical impact on the future development results. Iraq has one of the largest youth population groups in the world as the number of those under 19 years old account for about 50% of the population. The adult population will increase from 22 to 23 million by 2030. This will put more pressures on the economic resources which are already scarcer including food, water, urban infrastructure, and public services. It is expected that 5-7 million additional job opportunities will be needed. This figure can be higher if the rates of participation in the labor force increased especially among women.

Exploiting this demographic transformation successfully requires more investments in education, skills, and improvements in the business environment and better management of natural resources (including agricultural lands and water). This



might yield an effective power to stimulate the growth of a sustainable economy and enhance the middle class to enhance a wider social and political harmony.

#### **4-1-2: Iraq's Rentier Economy**

The heavy reliance on oil has made the economy unable to create jobs. Due to the lack of front and back linkages in the oil sector, unemployment rates aggravate, the economy becomes unable to create jobs. Other sectors which traditionally absorb the labor force also become more dependent on the oil revenues. It is enough to highlight the conflicts aroused by this challenge. Although the oil sector generated 53% of the GDP in the period 2004-2016 and accounted for more than 90% of the total exports, it only employed about 3% of the workforce, making integrating women and the poor into this rentier economy more difficult.

#### **4-1-3: Ensuring Political Stability**

Iraq faces a key strategic challenge related to ensuring the stability of its political regime, the peaceful transfer of power with each election process, adopting constitutional mechanisms to manage competition among political blocs, guaranteeing security stability and preventing the return of terrorist groups to the country through building sustainable peace so that the vulnerable categories, women and children are not affected by the lack of security and stability.

#### **4-1-4: Weak Institutional Performance and Good Governance Challenges**

Working on the VNR coincided with furious controversy about forming the federal government and escalating popular protests particularly in the southern cities. The Iraqi young people are aspiring to more opportunities, freedom, and participation which might contribute to enhancing democracy, fighting corruption and upholding the rule of law which should be prioritized by the governing elites. These could also be reflected in the SDGs implementation. Here comes the challenge to make the dialogue about the SDGs a national one to highlight the need to change, find ways to integrate these goals into the national plans and policies and give voice to young people, women and the poor. Then, transforming this dialogue to a real political will which provides a strong commitment to the SDGs. To this end, a dialogue platform was established to focus on the community dialogue about the SDGs.

To ensure wide national ownership of these goals, on January 3, 2019, His Highness Minister of Planning called for establishing the Iraqi Forum for Sustainable Development. Its tasks will include expanding the dialogue about development and planning issues, finding solutions to the economic problems facing the country, enhancing the dialogue among stakeholders and conveying their voices to the decision-makers.

Adopting the SDGs on the local level and incorporating them into the local development plans requires adapting the general framework of these goals, their targets, and indicators with the local conditions and circumstances and development levels. Disconnected planning processes and overlooking the local management levels will make the achievement levels lag behind the global ones and the local development management detached from the targets and results of the indicative goals.

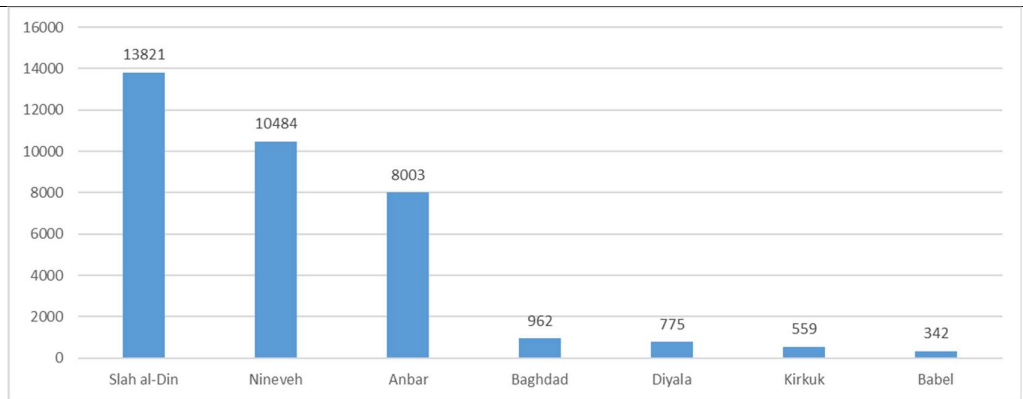
- **Corruption:** The financial and administrative corruption in Iraq is considered a major challenge. Iraq still occupies a very low position in the transparency indicators. The 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index highlighted hampered anti-corruption efforts and an aggravating democracy crisis. Iraq scored 18 out of 100 points and ranked 168 out of 180 countries covered by the CPI <sup>(v)</sup>.
- **Institutional Confusion:** The transformation which Iraq witnessed in 2003 created an institutional confusion and rivalry between the federal institutions on the one hand and the local and regional ones on the other. Despite heading to more administrative decentralization, the local and regional capabilities do not provide effective frameworks for coordination, data collection and policy analysis. Despite the federal government attempts to involve the governorates in the sustainable development efforts, the development work is still largely pushed by the federal government rather than the local commitment to achieve goals, support the process and stress this commitment locally and in the Kurdistan Region.
- **Poor Coordination:** The institutional coordination mechanisms on the local and federal levels and between them are still weak and the federal budget direction in the economy is still unclear. How the SDGs are integrated into the budget development process and prioritized is unclear. Despite the transfer of some powers in the education and health sectors to the local levels, they did not have a positive and tangible impact on the efforts of these institutions, the quality of services they provide and the coverage of their services for all the governorates' people.

#### 4-1-5: Reconstruction

The financial damages due to the war on terrorist groups in the governorates of Nineveh, Anbar, Saladin, Diyala, Kirkuk, Baghdad, and Babel is estimated to be about 55,461 trillion Iraqi dinars based on the 2014 prices (\$ 46.9 billion). In addition, the damages in the private houses reached 18.7 trillion Iraqi dinars and the total damages reached 75,305 trillion Iraqi dinars (\$ 63.7 billion) On the governorates' level, Saladin took the brunt of damages. The financial damages in the governorate reached 13,821 trillion Iraqi dinars (\$ 11.7 billion) followed by Nineveh with 10,484 trillion dinars (\$ 8.9 billion) and then Anbar with 8,003 trillion Iraqi dinars (\$ 6.7 billion) <sup>(vi)</sup>,

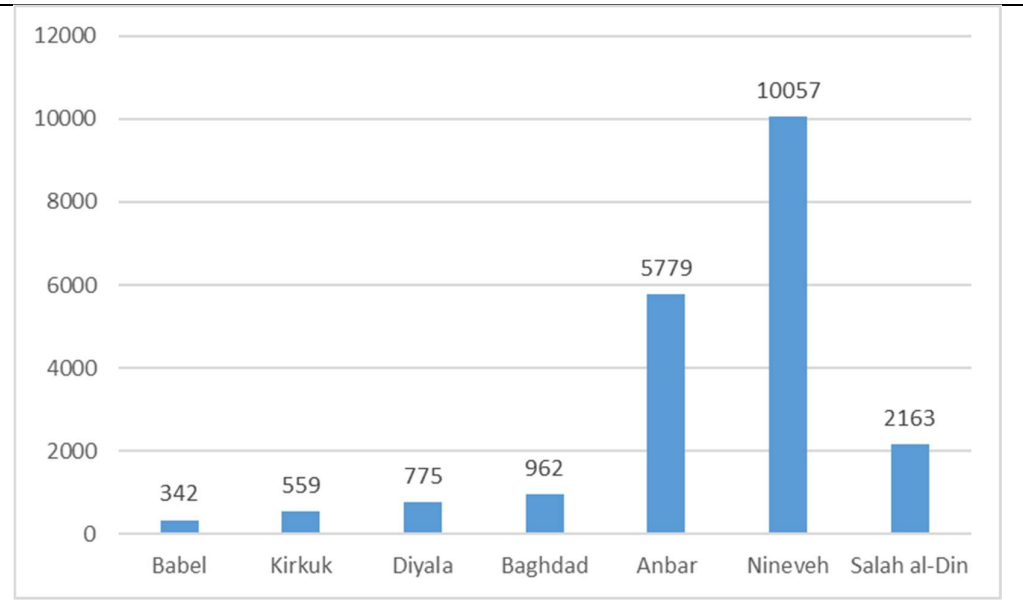
Figure (5). And in the case of excluding the value of damage to the energy sector in the province of Salah al-Din as a sovereign sector, and the exclusion of other sovereign damages such as damage to the phosphate company in Anbar province, Nineveh is the most affected followed by Anbar, Salahaddin, Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk and Babylon (Figure 6)

Figure (5): Total cost of damaged units by governorate (in billion Iraqi dinars, prices of 2018)



Source: The Republic of Iraq, Survey of the Inventory and Evaluation of Damage to Economic Activities as a Result of Terrorist Acts and the Combating of Dumping (Infrastructure and Government and Residential Buildings), Report of the Tables, Figure 3, p. 15

Figure (6): Total cost of affected units by governorate after the exclusion of the electricity and oil sectors from the province of Salah al-Din and the General Company for Phosphate from Anbar province (one billion Iraqi dinars prices 2018)



Source: The Republic of Iraq, Survey of the Inventory and Evaluation of Damage to Economic Activities as a Result of Terrorist Acts and the Combating of Dumping (Infrastructure and Government and Residential Buildings), Report of the Tables, Figure 4, p. 16

According to the MoP, the number of damaged economic units in the public sector reached 8,373 including 2,142 governmental buildings, 2,041 units in the transport sector and 1,679 units in the education sector. Of these, 6,429 units were completely damaged (76.7% of the total damaged units) and 1,944 were partially damaged. On the other hand, the estimated value of damages in the seven governorates covered in the survey reached 18.7 trillion Iraqi dinars (\$ 15.8 billion), 53% of these damages occurred in urban areas (10 trillion Iraqi dinar). The private houses in Nineveh Governorate were the most damaged (about 8 trillion Iraqi dinars) followed by Saladin (3.8 trillion Iraqi dinars), and Anbar (3.6 trillion Iraqi dinars). The damages in these governorates reached 82% of the total damages <sup>(vii)</sup>.

## 4-2: Other Challenges

### 4-2-1: Climate Change

The climate change in Iraq has become a reality with evident results. The recent years witnessed fluctuating and irregular rainfall. This impacted the available water quantities especially from its rivers which, in turn, impacted the situation of the rural population and the country's ability to achieve food security. The challenge which the climate change imposes is ensuring positive adaptation to this change, coming up with new agricultural production methods and improving the methods of irrigation and management of water and lands.

### 4-2-2: International and Regional Changes

Iraq is part of a diverse and multicultural world which is connected through economic, political, monetary, social and environmental bridges. This exposes it to all kinds of positive and negative influences. Therefore, Iraq always attempts to enhance positive impacts and alleviate and absorb the negative ones. However, its capabilities, capacities, nature of its political and economic relationships and national interests constrain its ability to alleviate the negative impacts on the political, economic, social and environmental fields. Among the most dangerous international and regional crises Iraq faced and is still facing are the fluctuating global crude oil prices, the crisis of water and its shares, the difficulty of achieving a sustainable water security under a disordered regional environment, the climate change and its environmental implications, external emigration, the alternatives of the non-renewable energy

sources and the Syrian crisis which entered its ninth year and its implications on the national situation.

On the other hand, there are also the technological changes brought about as a result of the appearance of new technologies followed by changes in the patterns of production, work and consumption. The inevitable challenge would be to keep up with the latest developments, invest in the new technologies and its products, come up with ways to benefit from them, integrate women and young people into the new economy.

### 4-2-3: Gender Gap

Although former governments included a Ministry of Family Affairs, it was canceled in the last two starting from 2014 and replaced with the Department of Women Empowerment at the Council of Ministers' General Secretariat and a committee with members from all ministries and sectors and with establishing gender units in all ministries. However, these entities could not guarantee women real representation and empowerment despite the huge efforts exerted by the relevant NGOs which are supported by international assistance to provide the executive power with a national mechanism for women.

### 4-2-4: Data Challenge

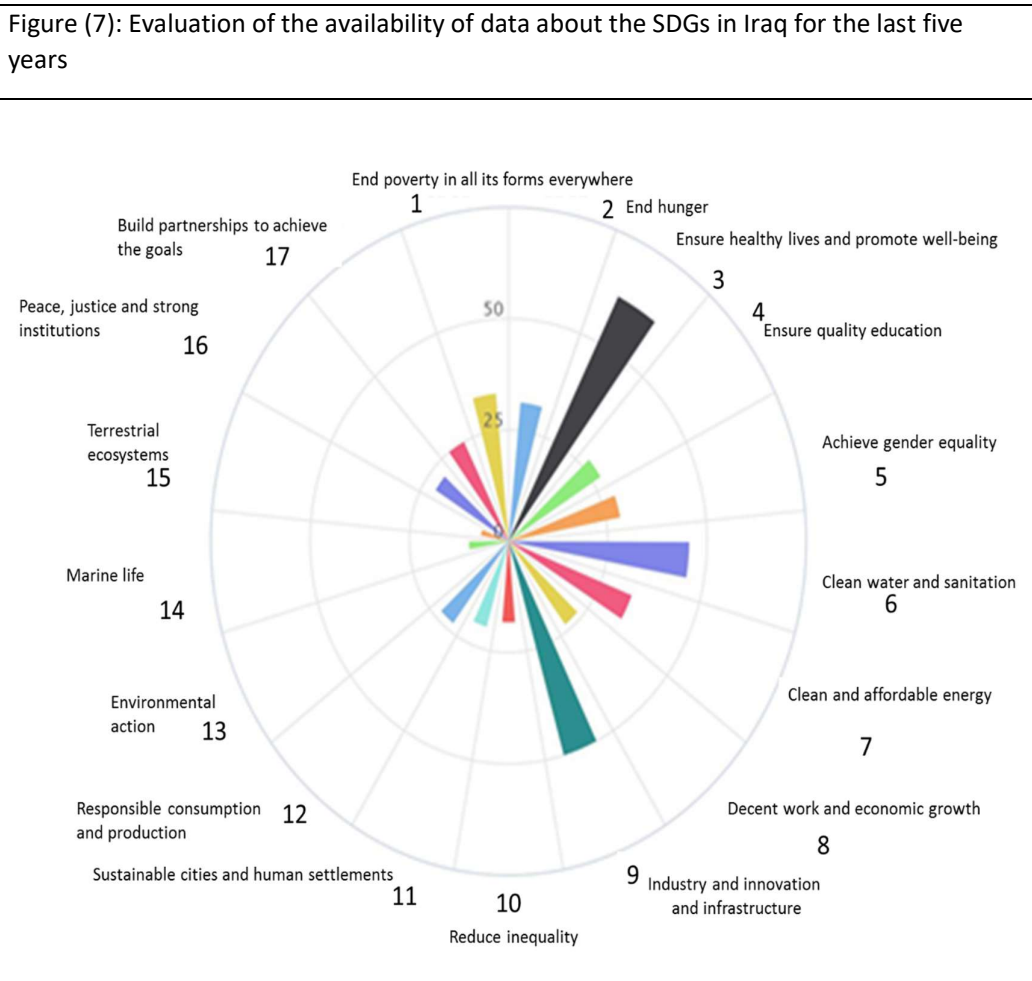
The statistical work witnessed a noticeable improvement during the period after 2003 especially in terms of data availability thanks to the joint efforts of the Central statistical organization (CSO), some ministries and international organizations. As a result, important databases were established. However, the change in conditions in 2014 and the terrorist groups' occupation of three governorates hindered the statistical efforts due to the inability to carry out comprehensive statistical operations covering the entire country and the political arguments which prevented achieving census which could act as a significant statistical foundation and a practical guide to the review.

On the other hand, the political transition caused confusion and uncertainty over the national statistical system especially the relationship between the center and the regions. The institutional work mechanisms linking the Central statistical organization with the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office are weak despite their fruitful cooperation in many domains. However, the form of the future statistical system and its impact on the process of SDGs data collection is not clear<sup>(viii)</sup>. Data published by the Central Organ and the Commission still includes data gaps in a number of areas that can be bridged with greater coordination and cooperation.

On the other hand, the ministries do not provide comprehensive and reliable administrative data. For example, a recent estimate by the Ministry of Health indicates that "data and information collected are not systematically used in health policy-

making decision [...] And there is no effective program for electronic health systems and health information technology "(ix) .

The availability of comprehensive data to measure the progress towards achieving the SDGs and classifying them by gender, age and housing represent a challenge and often a constraint on the analysis scope, depth and conclusions. The data availability assessment revealed an acute shortage of the data needed to evaluate the progress towards achieving the SDGs 2030. The total data gap reaches 69.9% of the total 230 indicators distributed to the 17 SDGs. In other words, the available data only covers 67 indicators. The data gap reaches its zenith in Goal 13 where there no data on any of its indicators. On the other hand, the most available data are on the indicators of Goal 3.



All of that requires uniting efforts to support providing data and the SDGs indicators, publishing, documenting and making them comparable globally. That also requires developing the management data systems which provide reliable data on unemployment, work, education, health, etc.

Providing appropriate data is extremely important to get quantitative and qualitative data about the progress made and get a better understanding of the problems relevant to the SDGs.

International organizations provide important data and are able to monitor progress. They are considered a good tool to assess the quality of national data, particularly that Iraq's record of cooperation with these organizations is well-established including with the World Bank, UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, FAO, and others.

However, there is a need to reevaluate the statistical efforts and establish an interactive database to monitor the SDGs and integrate the previously unavailable indicators into the new surveys especially those related to gender and the development situation in the different Iraqi areas.

### Framework 3: Urban sprawl

Until the end of the 1950s, Iraq held all the elements of "traditional" society. The rural population was 75%, compared to 25% in urban areas. Today, the urban landscape is quite different from what it was in the past. War, severe water shortages, arable land, and rapid population growth have led to high levels of urban inflation. Statistical surveys indicate that the percentage of the urban population in Iraq today is about (69.8%) compared to (30.2%) of the rural population. It is also estimated that urbanization continued at a high annual growth rate. There is also an unprecedented growth of a number of urban centers, especially the capital, Baghdad, with a population of about 8 million.

Iraq is also facing a growing deficit in housing after decades of sanctions and conflict and lack of investment opportunities to build new homes exacerbated by rapid population growth, urbanization, large inflows of displaced people and the migration of rural populations. The housing deficit is estimated to be at least 2 million units. The quality of existing housing is also deteriorating as a result of the disproportionate expansion of informal settlements.

Source: Ministry of Planning, Central Bureau of Statistics.

#### 4-2-5: Plans' Implementation Challenges

The development planning process is now facing an institutional weakness mainly due to the lack of legal adherence to the development plans and strategies. As a result, they become dependent on the voluntary compliance of federal and local institutions. This undermines the planning institutions' ability to achieve the set goals which, in turn, threatens Iraq Vision 2030 and, to a large extent, the ability to achieve the SDGs.

The SDGs' comprehensiveness and broad scope require that the development partners (the public sector, the private sector, civil society organizations, local governments, international institutions, knowledge society) play an effective and vital role which responds to the goals and translate them on the ground, manage their implementation efficiently and ensure accountability for the progress towards achieving these goals. This also requires that all stakeholders adopt a unified and comprehensive approach which meets the implementation requirements based on the fact that achieving these goals is a collective responsibility that requires high-level coordination among the involved parties to ensure collaborative efforts and avoid duplication. The lack of coordination will disperse efforts and waste resources. Therefore, effective coordination mechanisms should be adopted and harmonized with the goals' implementation requirements.



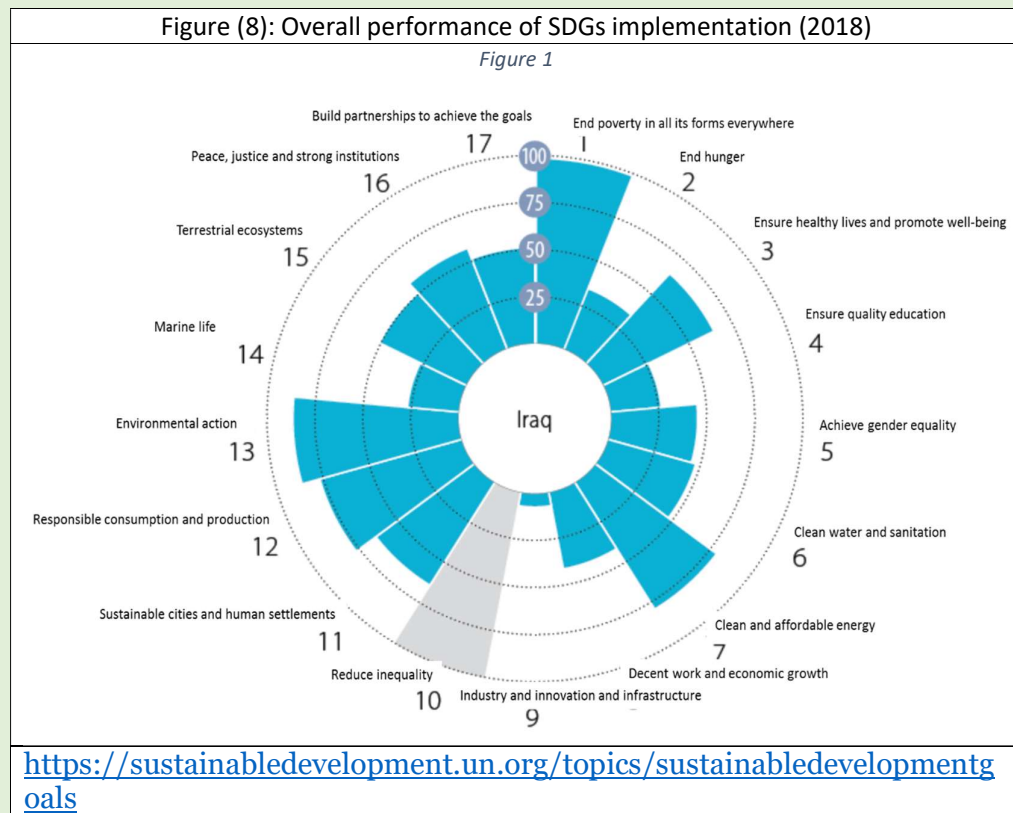
## 5: Progress in SDGs Achievement

Iraq's first VNR report 2019 presents the country's progress towards achieving selected goals from the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. It uses the latest data available from national and international sources. This chapter aims to highlight the gains as well as the gaps hindering SDGs implementation and to identify the challenges facing these SDGs within the framework of national priorities.

### Framework (4): Progress toward SDGs achievement in Iraq, internationally

There are a number of international benchmarks (\*) which show what has been achieved from the SDGs. One of them ranks Sweden first globally among the 165 countries covered in the evaluation (\*\*). Iraq recorded a low ranking (127 globally and 14 among the Arab countries). Iraq's performance was moderate (>50%) in seven SDGs: 1, 13, 6, 12, 3, 12, 16.

Figure (8): Overall performance of SDGs implementation (2018)



(\*) Another benchmark study, developed by Bertelsmann Foundation in 2016, ranked Iraq 105 among 149 countries covered by the report. (<http://sdgindex.org/assets/files/SDG-Index-AR-V2.pdf>)

(\*\*) The evaluation used alternative and fewer indicators than those covered by the SDGs and related targets. (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>)

## 5 -1: Human Development

The human development priority nationally is translated to five main goals (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 10), which substantially seek to free people from marginalization and enable them to live a better life with a sustainable income, healthy nutrition, better health, and good and equitable education. These goals are:

### SDG 1: End Poverty in All its Forms Everywhere

Our vision corresponds to sustainable development philosophy in liberating people from poverty in all its forms and dimensions through coherent and integrated policies, including a diverse package of social protection, income generation, and empowerment to enable the poor to withstand challenges.

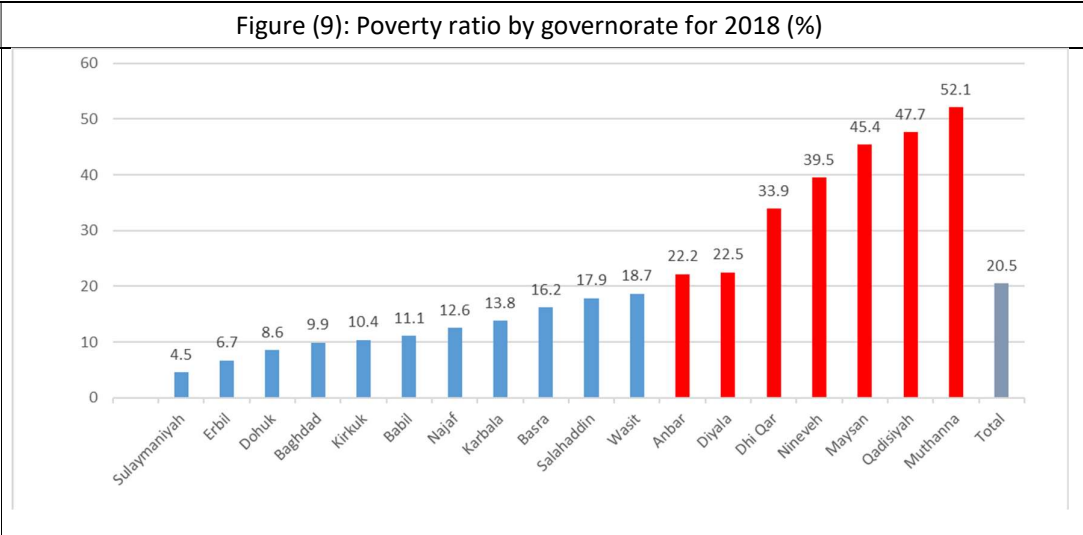
The poverty rate in Iraq was 22.9 in 2007, reduced by the efforts of the government and partners to 18.9 in 2012, and it appeared that the goal of the first poverty reduction strategy will be achieved, but the double crisis led to a rise in poverty in 2014 to about 22.5%, due to the repercussions of the double crisis <sup>(x)</sup>. This rate fell in 2018 to 20.5% as a result of improved economic and security conditions <sup>(xi)</sup>. At the regional level <sup>(\*)</sup>, there is a clear disparity in poverty rates among the least poor governorate (Sulaymaniyah 4.5%) and the poorest governorate (Muthanna 52.1%). Poverty rates are still higher in southern Iraq given the inherited problems and difficulties in agriculture due to climate change, which negatively affected this sector in southern governorates. On the other hand, poverty rates increased in the liberated governorates in northern Iraq (Nineveh, Kirkuk, Diyala, Anbar and Salah al-Din) due to the war against terrorist organizations, Nineveh alone accounts for about a fifth of the poor in Iraq, while Baghdad has about 11% of them.

Table (4): Poverty rates by region (2014 and 2018)

Region	Governorates	2014	2018	Change
Total	All governorates	22.5	20.5	-2
Center	Baghdad, Babel, Wasit, Kerbala	18.6	11.5	-7.1
North	Nineveh, Kirkuk, Diyala, Anbar, Salah al-Din	17.7	27.5	9.8
South	Qadisiya, Muthana, Thi Qar, Maysan, Basra	31.5	31.1	-0.4
Kurdistan	Dahuk, Sulaymaniyah, Erbil	12.5	5.5	-7

Source: MoP, CSO, Executive Management of the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

(\*) The indicator was not calculated at the rural and urban levels due to the security situation which did not enable the central system to cover the rural areas in the areas that were exposed to terrorism.



The average monthly household expenditure in Iraq was IQD 1.262 million in 2017 according to the poverty assessment survey in Iraq 2018. The survey data show a slight decrease in the poverty gap from 4.5 in 2017 to 4.1 in 2018; the gap between the poverty line and the average expenditure of the poor became lower, while the severity of poverty remained at 1.4% during the same period, which means the poor's spending deficiency kept the same low level.

**Framework (5): Multidimensional poverty in Iraq 2018**

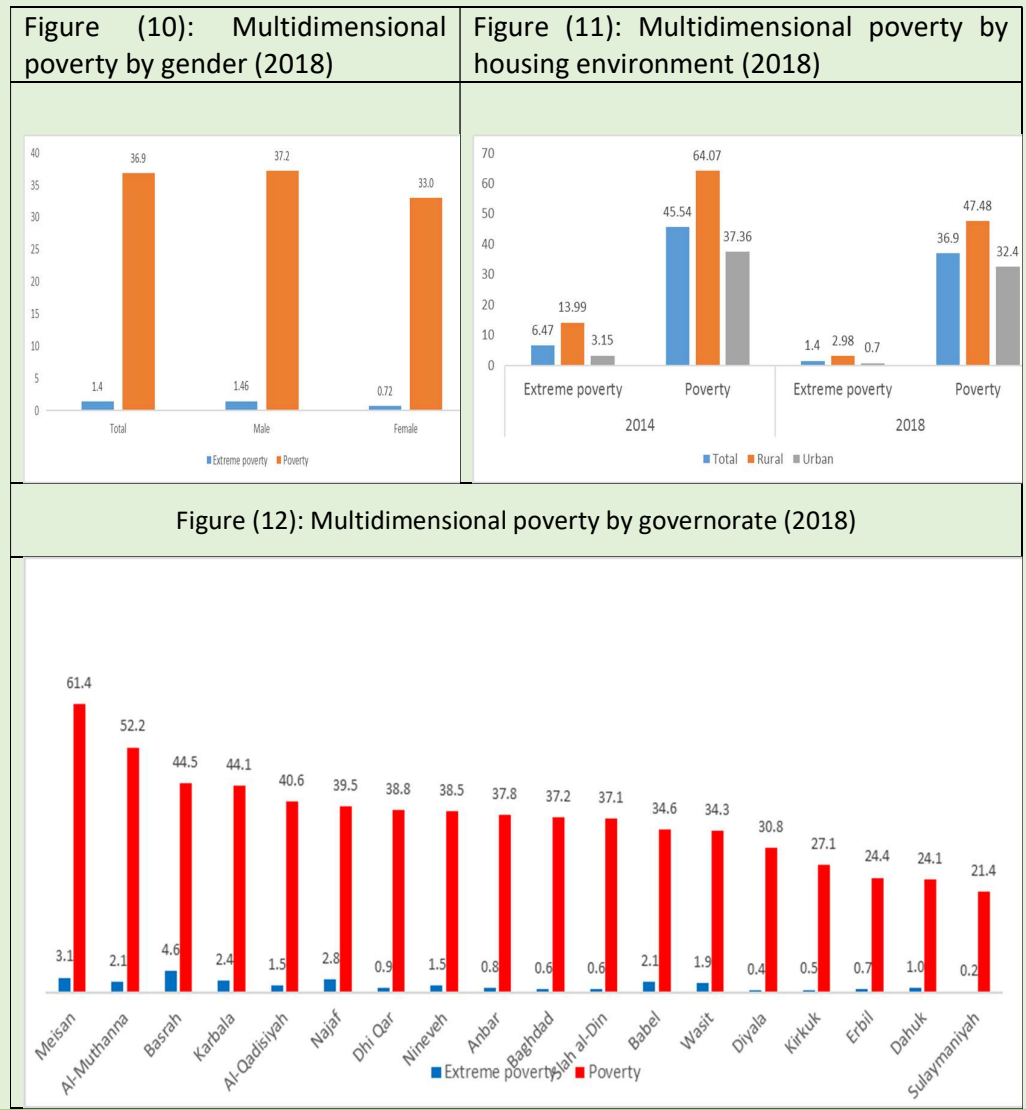
The regional multidimensional poverty approach was developed in the Arab countries to achieve a number of objectives including the relevance of poverty situations in the region, the possibility of comparing among Arab countries while maintaining the same baseline and considering the individual as an analysis unit. This index was calculated for Iraq using the same approach as well as the three dimensions included in the global and Arab indexes: Education, health and living standards are calculated based on 12 indicators:

- Education: School years and enrolment.
- Health: Child mortality, early pregnancy (and female circumcision)
- Standards of living: Provision of electricity, sanitation, safe drinking water, suitable housing, cooking fuel, overcrowding, and asset ownership.

Each of these indicators has two levels of deprivation: Extreme poverty level which is identical to the global multidimensional poverty index; and Arab Poverty Index, which provides a broader picture of deprivation compared to the first index.

The findings of the MICS survey which included 238,327 people from 18 governorates show that 1.4% of Iraqis suffer from extreme multidimensional poverty and 36.9%

live in multidimensional poverty. Gender-wise, males are more deprived of females. Deprivation in rural areas is higher than in urban areas (47.5% and 32% respectively). On the governorate level, Maysan (61.4%), Muthanna (52.2%), Basra (44.5%) and Karbala (44.1%) are the poorest, while Kurdistan Region governorates are the least poor.



With the reference that Children represent 57% of the poor population in Iraq, which means they are in need of child-specific social protection schemes in addition to those of the orphans. In May 2018, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs launched a pilot program for conditional cash benefits for education and health in Sadr City / 2, in collaboration with the ministries of health, education, planning, the World Bank and UNICEF. To be continued for two years and includes a modern electronic program to follow-up the regularity of the families children who contracted within the study as well as regularity in the program of follow-up of pregnant women and vaccines in

order to form a comprehensive picture of the extent of their cooperation in the implementation of the program, which aims originally to combat illiteracy and the return of children who drop out of school at the ages of (9-14) years. Each child is committed to study the amount of 15,000 dinars and pregnant mother gets 10,000 dinars, as well as the commitment to vaccines and review of health centers to ensure recovery and stability and the level of continuing education for these families to break the cycle of poverty through generations and reduce child poverty <sup>(xii)</sup>.

#### **Framework (6): National Policy for Child Protection Strengthening the national environment for child protection in Iraq**

The National Child Protection Policy is being developed to improve the situation of children and the violence and ill-treatment they face. Evidence of a wide range of violations has been gathered, namely, the severity of violence against children ranging from psychological and physical violence in schools (About 84% of the students suffer from this type of violence), increasing child labor (up to 18% in rural areas) and a large number of children in conflict with the law (more than 6,000 children), Orphans or children placed in institutions (5%).

According to this document, the child is a boy or girl under the age of 18, as defined by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This approach is guided by the "child protection environment" model, in addition to being rooted in the guidelines of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which calls for ensuring all considerations for the growth and survival of children and ensuring their best interests, participation and non-discrimination in all policies, programs and applications, The Government of Iraq through its expectation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994.

Based on the findings of the analysis of the situation and the presentation of the basic dilemma mentioned in the section above, the proposed goal of the child protection policy in Iraq is: "To protect all children from violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect in all circumstances and along the continuum of protection from prevention to rehabilitation and rehabilitation Integration, including support for children within their families and communities. "

Based on the above, the policy seeks to achieve the following results over the next 10 years:

1. Protecting children through a legislative framework that guarantees their rights and fully meets their needs in accordance with international standards.
2. Safe living for children within supportive families and communities that promote the protection of their rights and ensure their growth to their fullest potential.
3. To promote the participation of children in raising their issues, discussing them and proposing solutions.

4. Access to adequate support by children and families before the danger occurs to enhance their safety and early intervention and to protect them from risk, neglect, exploitation, and abuse.

5. Children who have been subjected to violence, abuse or exploitation receive the support and care they need to enhance their well-being and facilitate their reintegration into their communities.

6. A safe living environment supportive of children affected or affected by conflict and forced displacement, within their families and communities in which they live.

7. A comprehensive system of monitoring and data collection on child protection issues. This result intersects and contributes to the achievement of all results.

Source: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Child Welfare Authority, National Policy Document for the Protection of Children Strengthening the national environment for child protection in Iraq

(<http://www.molsa.gov.iq/upload/upfile/ar/1151.docx>)

### **SDG 3: Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-being**

Under the National Health Policy 2014-2023, the Ministry of Health "provides comprehensive and inclusive healthcare to all individuals and at the highest quality through the efficient use of available resources" <sup>(xiii)</sup>. By expanding decentralization of health sector governance, strengthening the MOH supervisory role and engaging stakeholders <sup>(xiv)</sup>, compared to 73% in 2014 and 62% in 2016.

- Available data show that 63% of the Iraqi population had access to primary health care in 2017 <sup>(xv)</sup>.
- Life expectancy in Iraq is 73.6 years (75.6 years for women and 71.7 years for men), <sup>(xvi)</sup> about 3.6 years higher than 2011 level (69.0 years) <sup>(xvii)</sup>.

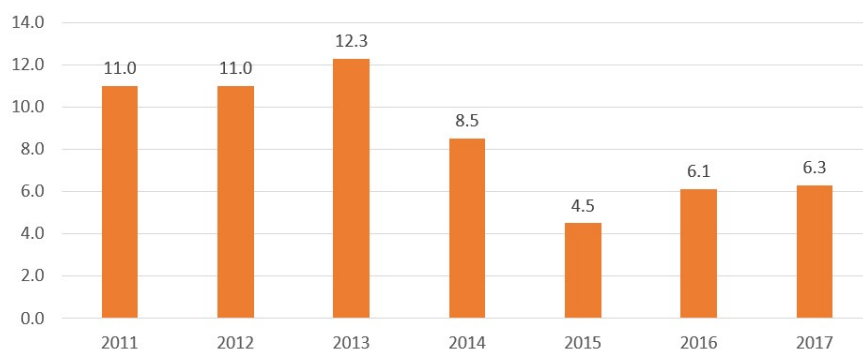
Table (5): Life expectancy at birth 2014-2018 (year)

Year	Males	Females	Total
2014	67.7	70.9	69.3
2015	71.0	74.9	73.0
2016	71.3	75.2	73.4
2017	71.5	75.4	73.6
2018	71.7	75.6	73.6

Source: Ministry of Planning, Central Bureau of Statistics, Directorate of Population Statistics and Manpower

- In recent years, 17 comprehensive immunization campaigns have been conducted, which kept Iraq polio-free for the past three years, after documenting the first such cases for decades in 2014. These campaigns managed to reach out to 89% of the targeted children in the three immunization rounds of 2017 <sup>(xviii)</sup>.
- Based on various data sources, Iraq has achieved a significant reduction in under-five mortality rates since its rise in the 1990s by sanctions when more than 60 children per 1000 live births <sup>(xix)</sup>, ranging from 22-26 children per 1000 live births for the years 2014-2018 with the measurement of double crisis conditions <sup>(xx)</sup>. While neonatal deaths were 14 children per 1,000 live births in 2018 <sup>(xxi)</sup>.
- 6.3% of births in Iraq were handled by non-specialized persons in 2017. Maternal mortality was 36 deaths per 100,000 live births <sup>(xxii)</sup>, slightly below the 2015 rate of 36.2, and slightly higher than in 2013 before the double crisis, when it reached 30.1 percent by 2014 <sup>(xxiii)</sup>.
- The main maternal mortality causes in Iraq are postpartum hemorrhage (20.6%), and pregnancy difficulties and dystocia (6.8%) due to non-skilled midwives and most births in poor and remote areas are handled by midwives due to traditions.
- Chronic diseases account for 43% of all adult deaths. According to WHO, overweight and obesity are the leading cause of chronic diseases in Iraq. Overweight is expected to rise among both men and women over the coming decade. However, 80% of heart diseases and about 40% of cancer and diabetes cases can be prevented through healthy diets, regular physical activity and avoiding bad habits such as smoking <sup>(xxiv)</sup>.

Figure (13): Births conducted by non-specialized staff (2011-2017)



Source: MoP, CSO, Sustainable development for better empowerment of women and girls, Baghdad, 2018, p 21.

Over the past decade, violence has been the leading cause of death in Iraq, where 201,876 people lost their lives as a result of terrorist acts <sup>(xxv)</sup>. Traffic accidents caused 21557 deaths during the period 2007-2016 <sup>(xxvi)</sup>. In 2017, the traffic-related death rate was 1.4 persons in 30 days per 100,000 people (according to the standardized lifetime rates).

## SDG 4: Quality Education

Quality education and lifelong learning are key prerequisites for sustainable development because they are broader than school enrolment. They are closely associated with the efficiency of education and the availability of good schools that meet students' aspirations.

- Indicators suggest a deteriorated status of school environment: a great shortage of school buildings which leads to double school (i.e. two schools using the same building) and overcrowding. The shortage is about 6484 buildings. Adding the damaged buildings, the number could rise to 8147. Student/class ratios are 37, 41, 37 in elementary, middle and preparatory schools <sup>(xxvii)</sup>.
- The Iraqi Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation Survey 2018 shows that nearly 87% of individuals over the age of 10 are literate (91.9% for males and 82.1%



for females). The MICS estimated the literate women aged 15-49 years at 69.0% <sup>(xxviii)</sup>

- The primary completion rate, which is the number of students who passed grade six to the population of the same age group, is low in Iraq compared to other developing countries (75.7% according to the 2018 MICS <sup>(xxix)</sup> ), although this indicator was among the MDGs and a better progress could have been made.
- The net enrolment rate for primary school (6-11 years) was 94.0% in 2017-2018. It drops to 55.0% for the middle school (12-14 years) and 28.0% for the preparatory school (15-17 years) <sup>(xxx)</sup>. Enrolment in kindergartens is only 2.9% of children. Figures also show gender disparity. Primary enrolment is 96% for boys compared to 93% for girls. In middle schools, 56% for boys compared to 54% for girls. However, the situation is different for the preparatory stage, the rate is 30% for girls compared to 26% for boys; because boys drop out and join the labor market early.
- There were 35 public universities in Iraq, 382 colleges with 115,147 students in 2016 (excluding the universities of Mosul, Ninewa, Hamdaniyah, and Kurdistan). There are 33,263 male and female students in these universities. There are also 51 private colleges according to 2016 data, so the total number of students was 608,554 in 2015-2016 <sup>(xxxi)</sup>.

## Leaving No One Behind

The three basic principles of sustainable development (inclusiveness, indivisibility and leaving no one behind) have been key pillars in Iraq's vision and direction. Hence, the focus groups have been identified to achieve these principles in the fragile categories of the disabled, the elderly, orphans, women heads of household, widows, The poor (multi-dimensional poverty), the various social policies, plans, strategies, and programs have been developed to meet the challenges and to ensure that they do not fall behind the path of development despite all the challenges and problems created by crisis conditions. This international effort has had a clear impact in supporting this trend, with an optimal investment of social capital Iraqi society distinguishes its cultural heritage and historical depth.

- **Displacement Crisis**

The war against terrorist groups and their implications led to a major economic and humanitarian crisis. Since 2014, the crisis displaced 5,965,860 based on the data of the Ministry of Migration and Displaced<sup>(xxxii)</sup>. As of February 2019, about 4,211,982 returned to their homes. However, 1,744,980 people (290,830 families) have not returned to their areas yet<sup>(xxxiii)</sup>. The government is still committed to giving them the choice and facilitating their return.

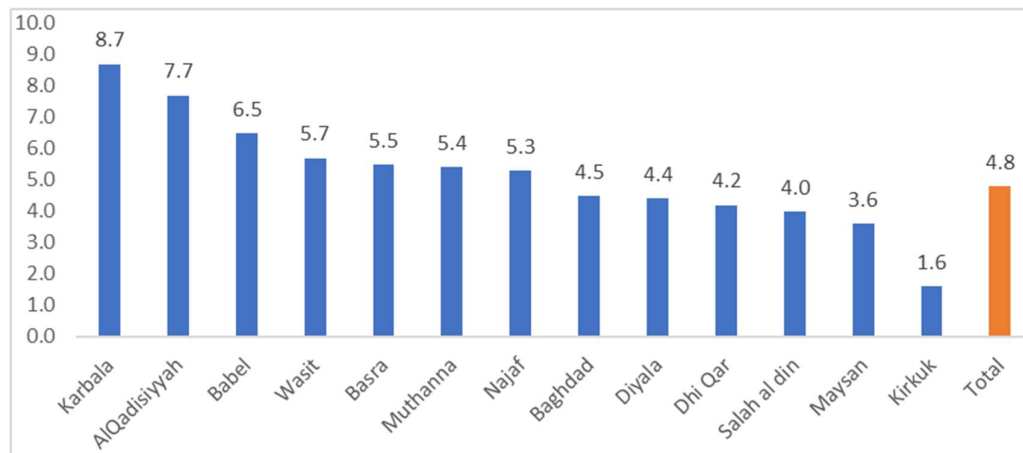
The government had to deal with a huge file of deep humanitarian challenges, so it initiated the formation of a civil crisis management unit linked to the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, which worked since the early days of its formation to address the situation of the displaced and alleviate their suffering. The issuance of official documents, the provision of educational opportunities for children, access to health-care services, as well as income for families with livelihoods.

After the liberation, the process of restoring stability, which requires the rehabilitation of liberated areas in the governorates of Nineveh, Salaheddin, Diyala, and Anbar to receive returnees from the displaced, began.

- **People with disabilities and special needs**

Iraq has taken steps towards integrating and empowering people with disabilities and their special needs and enhancing their participation in society. In December 2017 Iraq was on schedule with the launch of the results of the first National Disability Survey for the year 2016, which was implemented by the Central Bureau of Statistics in the Ministry of Planning and covered (13) of the provinces of Iraq, except the provinces of Kurdistan and the provinces of Nineveh and Anbar because of military operations, The importance of this survey stems from the provision of a database for the disabled that will help decision-makers to draw up policies for this segment.

Figure (14): Allocation of disabled persons on sex and governance for 2016 (%)



- Survey did not include Nineveh, Anbar and the provinces of Kurdistan.

Source: Ministry of Planning, Central Bureau of Statistics, Annual Statistical Abstract 2017, p 82

#### Framework (7): No one is left behind: The care for the people with disabilities act No. 38 of 2013



In mid-July 2017, the MoLSA's People with Disability Care Unit issued the first edition of the Care for the People with Disabilities Act No. 38 of 2013 in Braille language to enable the beneficiaries to know their rights under the law.

This law considers the social inclusion of this group and the modern techniques of communication with the community. The Act has positive aspects including:

Article 4 provides for the establishment of a care unit for persons with disabilities and special needs.

Article 15 provides benefits in higher education, travel tickets, and health insurance.

Article 16 determines an employment quota for people with disabilities (5% in the public and joint sectors and 3% in the private sector).

Article 17 exempts from tax 10% of income and soft loans.

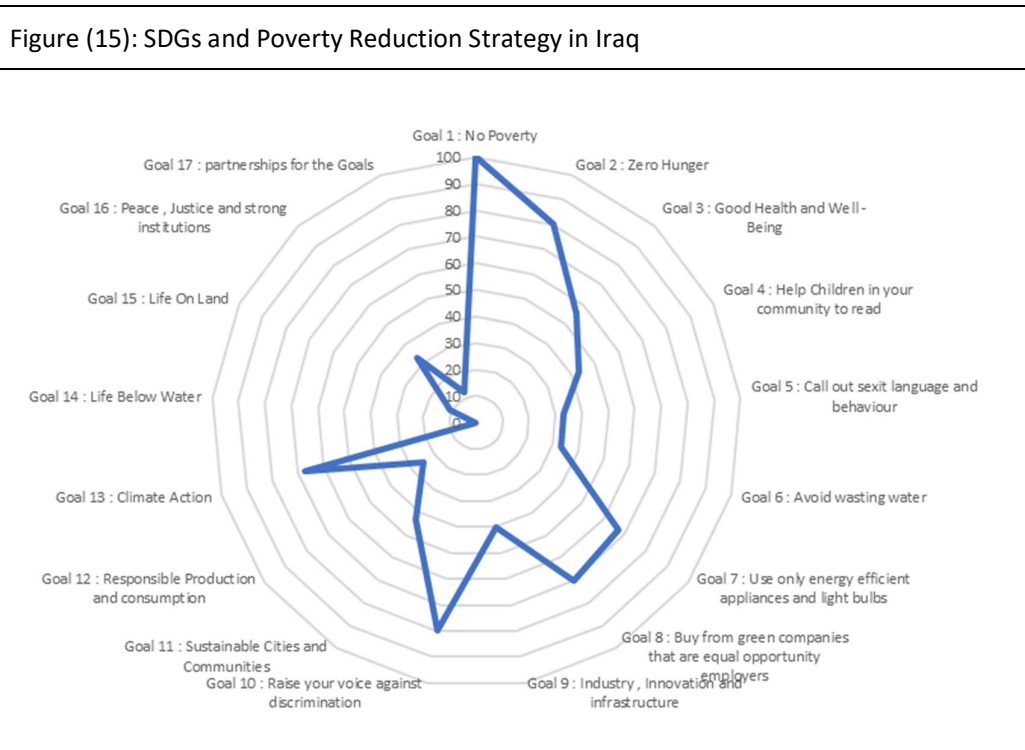
Article 18 is related to tax exemptions for individual and collective transport means and traffic number.

Article 19 allocate a salary for full-time carers and a one-year leave for employees caring for disabled persons.

- **Poor People**

The State launched the Second Poverty Reduction Strategy, which adopted a program that contributes to improving living conditions, protecting against risks and enabling the transformation of the poor into economically and socially integrated producers. The results are based on the adoption of the logical framework approach, which in turn is the set of outcomes that the strategy works to achieve. As a result, this strategy, with its outputs and the outputs of the implementation of the national development plans and the various strategies, aims to achieve a general goal of reducing poverty by 25% until 2022 through implementation of outcomes related activities The following: Higher and sustainable income from work for the poor, improved health status, improved education for the poor, adequate housing and an environment responsive to challenges, effective social protection for the poor, emergency response activities.

Overall, about 43% of sustainable development goals are included in the Poverty Reduction Strategy, which comprises 50% of the targets covered by the National Development Plan, particularly targets 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 16.





## Framework (8): Reform of social protection system

In 2005, the Social Protection Network was established by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs as a mechanism to redistribute pro-poor income and to enable them to continue their lives based on the criteria of the target population (widows, invalids, unemployed, divorcees, etc.) Social No. 126 of 1980, with amendments to the provisions to fit the new development of living, to be 50 thousand dinars for one individual, which constitutes an independent family and 70 thousand dinars for a family consisting of two people and the amount of the subsidy to 120 thousand dinars for a family consisting of six people, the maximum limit of social benefits. Its establishment coincided with the beginning of a number of economic reforms, which are linked to the lifting of subsidies on some commodities, especially oil derivatives. The main objectives behind the establishment of the network were:

- Raising the standard of living of the poor.
- Establish a system to address the requests of care beneficiaries.
- Establish an effective system for storing and processing beneficiary data.
- Follow-up on unemployment cases and help job seekers to find income-generating jobs.

The Social Protection Act No. 11 of 2014 can mark the beginning of a new stage in the social protection system towards wider coverage and more institutional stability. This law abolished the Social Welfare Law No. 126 of 1980 and its amendments, which continued for 35 years. , The new law is a comprehensive law of the protection system and a step towards building an advanced protection system inspired by the experiences of some developed countries and overcoming the disadvantages of the previous laws, which first linked between entitlement and poverty through the PMT methodology. (Article 1 / I) and to include a number of flexible clauses that would allow for adjustment of the targeting mechanisms, the categories covered and the amount of the subsidy without reference to the legislative authorities.

This was the fruit of the strategic partnership with the World Bank in the formulation of a strategic roadmap (2015-2019). The vision of the strategic map for social protection is to "create a comprehensive system of social protection in Iraq, including social safety nets, social insurance, labor market policies.

Social safety networks	Social Security	Labor market
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the Social Protection Law No. 11 of 2014 after the full activation of the Social Protection Authority (the new system of targeting by poverty)</li> <li>• Continue excluding families and</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new social security law adheres to the principles of good design of pension schemes.</li> <li>• Integration of the pension schemes in the public and private sectors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Micro-credit program for income-generating projects</li> <li>• Vocational training programs to prepare entrants to the labor market and strengthen coordination with</li> </ul>

<p>individuals that do not meet the inclusion criteria.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (social researchers, IT team, communication).</li> <li>• Prepare a solid database.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential positive impact on the freedom of movement of labor</li> <li>• Expand coverage and inclusion</li> </ul>	<p>the Social Protection Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective social dialogue with stakeholders (employers, trade unions, etc.)</li> </ul>
---	--	--

As far as the first component of the social safety nets is concerned, the establishment of social protection and its departments has been established, and the issuance of its internal regulations and the provision of financial and human resources. The implementation of the law of social protection and the introduction of the law into force and the establishment of the formations of the Social Protection Authority and the establishment of an integrated system of the Commission and its configurations based on the provisions of section I of Article 5 of the Social Protection Act No. 11 of 2014. More than one million people were covered by the end of 2018.

Source: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Social Protection Authority.

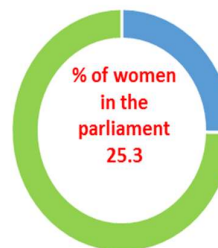
## SDG 5: Gender Equality

Gender equality is a key factor in achieving the goals of sustainable development. The Iraqi constitution and national development documents have emphasized eliminating discrimination against women and promoting gender

equality. Iraq gives special attention to the issue of violence against women. In 2013, the government adopted the first national strategy to combat this issue. In 2018, the second national strategy was issued. In

2012, anti-human trafficking Act No. 38 was implemented to fulfill our obligations under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocol thereto: combating human trafficking, especially in women and children (xxxiv).

Figure (16): % of Women in the Council of Representatives 2019



- Violence against women is still prevalent in Iraq. Mol has reported several forms of violence against girls and women both inside and outside the family. The following table shows the victims killed, which require urgent action to reduce these violations in all governorates, except for Kurdistan, despite the declining trend. It is worth mentioning that the Iraqi government has taken several legal and institutional measures to address this phenomenon. In 2005, the Supreme Committee for the Protection of Family and Children was formed by the family violence under Decree No. 80 of 2009, which included members from various ministries such as the Interior, Justice, Health, Labor and Higher Education and representatives of some NGOs. Its most important recommendations were the establishment of the Ministry of the Interior (Family and Family Protection Directorate), which includes officers and associates of both sexes and at the same year (xxxv)

Early marriage (\*) is still prevalent among women. 27.9% of girls are married at 18 years or younger. This percentage increases in poor families to 30% in the poorest two-fifths of the population, while it is 19% among rich population according to the MICS 2018 (xxxvi).

---

(\*) Prefer to use the term marriage instead of marriage, Lama refers to him from lack of freedom of choice.



- There are still serious barriers to empowerment of women in the business area, and senior management positions in public and private institutions. Women's economic participation is still low at 13.0%, while unemployment among women is 31.0% according to 2018 data <sup>(xxxvii)</sup>.
- The proportion of girls to boys in education levels is still far from equal, although it has improved from 94% in primary education in 2011 to 98% in 2016. From 85% in secondary education to 93% for two years in a row, (81% to 92% between 2011-2015) <sup>(xxxviii)</sup>.
- Despite the dominance of male culture in the areas of women development, Iraq adopted a positive gender-discrimination approach through legislation and laws, most importantly the quota system, which guarantees women at least 25% of the seats in the legislative bodies (Council of Representatives and governorate councils). The laws granted benefits to working women including maternity leave, marriage leave, and waiting period for widowhood (after husband's death), all of which are fully paid.

#### Framework (9): International agreements related to women's rights ratified by Iraq after 2003

- The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- International Labour Organisation Convention on Equality of Treatment (Social Security), 1962
- Declaration of the Beijing Platform for Action (World Conference on Women).

## SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Inequality is a problem that has emerged over the past decade, despite the improvement in the level of living after the lifting of economic sanctions. There have been signs of inequality in the population (between groups and gender) and geographically (between cities and rural areas).

- The distribution of expenditure among the five income categories for 2007, 2012 and 2014 shows a trend towards inequity. The Gini coefficient calculated from 0.338 in 2007 to 0.366 in 2012 and to 0.380 in 2014. A further deterioration in equity can be expected Transfer payments to poor groups, especially those related to the ration card, as well as the composition of growth in consumption among the five-year expenditure categories <sup>(xxxix)</sup>.
- On the other hand, inequality has increased in the country. The value of the Gini coefficient, calculated from 0.338 in 2007, increased to 0.366 in 2012 and to 0.380 in 2014. Further deterioration of justice in spending can be expected due to the double crisis <sup>(xi)</sup>. Many people are close to the poverty line, and poverty rates are high among the displaced and in the countryside. This is strongly linked to the low labor income in sectors that employ about half the heads of poor households (agriculture, construction and transport), which are characterized by low average wages and large employment for women, where the poor work on their own, all of which are negative indicators of economic capacity, labor market efficiency and low labor productivity. A comparison of Gini coefficient data calculated between 2012-2018 indicates further inequalities by region. The value of a coefficient has increased in all regions of Iraq except in the Kurdistan region, the highest increases in areas liberated from terrorist organizations. (See table below)

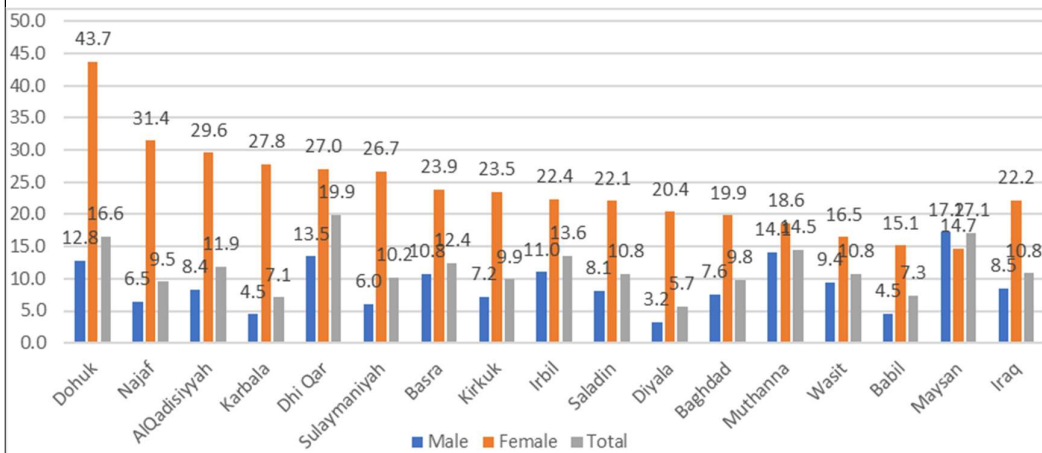
Table (6): The value of Gini Index in all regions of Iraq 2012 and 2018

City	2012	2018	Difference between 2012-2018
<b>Kurdistan</b>	0.275	0.266	-0.009
<b>The provinces liberated from terrorism</b>	0.272	0.309	0.037
<b>Wasit</b>	0.273	0.291	0.018
<b>South</b>	0.285	0.29	0.005
<b>Iraq</b>	0.295	0.296	0.001

Source: the Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning, Central Bureau of Statistics, Iraq Poverty Monitoring and Assessment Survey 2018.

- There is a disparity between the population and the regions in terms of the growth of consumer spending during the period 2007-2012, the consumption of the top five groups increased by about 2.0% compared to about 0.7% for the poorest 20% of the population. On the other hand, Except for Baghdad and the Kurdistan region by 2.24% annually, compared to 0.08% in Kurdistan and 1.83% in Baghdad <sup>(xli)</sup>. But in 2012, the poorest five received 7.0% of spending, while the top five earned 45.1%. In 2018, these two categories earned 7.5% and 40.5%, respectively <sup>(xlii)</sup>. This relative improvement can be attributed to improved targeting mechanisms for the poor since 2014.
- The gender gap in economic participation, unemployment, and wages is still unfavorable to women. The unemployment rate among women is 22.2% in 2016, compared to 8.5% among men aged 15 years and older, and rises in the same year among the younger age group (aged 15-24) to 38.0% among females compared to 20.1% among males <sup>(xliii)</sup>. We also notice the difference in the situation of women according to the governorates. The women of Dohuk, Najaf, Qadisiya, and Karbala are more unemployed than others (see figure below). One of the main challenges of the next phase is to bridge these gaps with greater economic empowerment of women and increase their participation in women's decision-making and entrepreneurship.

Figure (17): Rate of poverty according to sex and governance 2016



Source: the Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning, Central Bureau of Statistics, Annual Statistical Abstract 2017, 62

- Politically, political gains have not yet exceeded the legislative quota. No women have held a senior executive position in the provinces, and their gains have been reduced to ministerial seats.

Iraq seeks, within the first goal, and according to the reviewed indicators to develop a range of intervention options that ultimately aim at building the human:

## Human Building: Intervention Options

- Ensuring the growth of a sustainable, pro-poor economy.
- Improve targeting mechanisms for the poor.
- Mitigate inequitable distribution.
- Provide standardized and integrated data for the entire population, especially the poor and women, to build poverty maps.
- Improved integration between local and national levels and the work of social protection institutions to ensure that targeting programs are effective to empower the poor and improve their mechanisms.



- Improving the governance of health institutions.
- Increase the funding of health programs and increase the proportion of spending on them in light of the competing image of other spending.
- Expand the population coverage of health care services to 100% of the population.
- Develop a comprehensive system of health insurance.
- Increase attention to the guiding aspect of adopting healthy eating habits and systems and avoiding bad habits such as smoking and drugs



- Improve the school environment and make it child-friendly in general, and for girls in particular and for people with disabilities and special needs.
- Improve the quality of education, including capacity-building for teachers and teachers, and provision of electronic learning materials and supplies.
- Reducing the enrollment gap between levels of education.
- Linking vocational and higher education to the needs of the labor market in order to enhance the ability of graduates to obtain income-generating jobs.



- Ensure effective political participation of women, especially in decision-making processes in governance institutions.
- Overcome the difficulties that impede the entry of women into the labor market and impede the developmental role of women.
- Recognition and appreciation of unpaid work and domestic work through services and infrastructure.
- Improving the working conditions of women in the private sector.
- Facilitate the integration of women in the labor market.
- Developing a care economy that balances the work and family responsibilities of working women



- Achieving spatial development and ensure justice in the distribution of the fruits of development, especially between the countryside and the city and between the provinces.
- Increasing participation of women in the labor market and decision-making positions.
- Integration of vulnerable and marginalized groups into the development process.
- Complete the reform of the social protection system to ensure more effective targeting of the poor and vulnerable groups



Source: Iraq Vision 2030

## 5-2: Good Governance and Safe Society

Post-conflict peace-building is a means of averting the eruption of potential conflicts. This is the essence of peacebuilding sustainability in post-conflict Iraq. Sustainable peace is built on solid foundations that interrelate with launching the process of economic development, state-building, democratization, and good governance and wider administrative decentralization.

Having an effective government, as well as a free market, and social institutions capable of performing their roles adequately are prerequisites for gaining people's trust and preventing conflict. Institutions determine the rules of social, political and economic interaction, provide incentives, and control the interaction. The World Bank's World Development Report 2011 highlighted the role of institutions in sustainable peace-building<sup>(xliv)</sup>. The report supports the message that "strengthening legitimate institutions and good governance in order to provide security, justice and employment opportunities for citizens is crucial to breaking the cycle of violence"<sup>(xiv)</sup>. Moreover, the success of economic and political development depends primarily on the improvement of institutions<sup>(xlv)</sup>. The most crucial thing is the restoration of the state and its ability to fulfill its basic functions, foremost of which is to act as a state for all and as the only authority that can use legitimate violence to bring order to society.

- The government proceeded with decentralization through gradual devolution of financial and administrative powers of a number of ministries (Municipalities, Construction and Housing, Education, Health, Agriculture, Youth, Labour and Social Affairs).
- The government has made commitments, with the support of the World Bank, to reform the financial and public investment management systems and introduce e-government including e-payment and job cards and to prepare for the automation of government systems such as the customs and taxation. Steps were taken to involve public banks in contractual obligations to modernize their

infrastructure and management structures and introduce full automation. And the adoption of the system of general contracting in accordance with the international standard specifications.

- The Supreme Anti-Corruption Council was established and it started referring cases to the judiciary.

## SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

- In 2016 the number of victims of premeditated murder was estimated in 1983, including 1480 adult males and 86 females, while 53 children (48 females) were women <sup>(xlvii)</sup>. (Iraqbodycount) estimated the number of Iraqi victims for the period 2003-2017 by about 200 thousand people as a result of violence associated with terrorist and military operations <sup>(xlviii)</sup>.
- After July 2014, Iraq witnessed one of the biggest setbacks in human rights when hundreds of Yazidi and Christian girls were subjected to human trafficking by an organization that was responsible for the largest human trafficking in Iraq in its modern history. In 2016, the number of victims of human trafficking was 153, according to the Iraqi Interior Ministry <sup>(xlix)</sup>, including 15 girls (see table below).

Table (7): Number of female intentional homicide and human trafficking victims (except Kurdistan)

Detail		2016	2017
Females under 18	Murder	53	42
	Honor crimes	3	3
	Human trafficking	2	2
Females aged 18 years and over	Murder	332	296
	Honor crimes	33	29
	Human trafficking	13	19

Source: the Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning, Central Bureau of Statistics, Sustainable Development Towards Better Empowerment of Women and Girls, Baghdad, 2018, p. 19

It can be noted that the federal government and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) have dealt with the physical and psychological trauma suffered by women under the control of terrorist organizations, as well as working to address the legal status of children born in the meantime and have no documentary evidence <sup>(l)</sup>.

## Framework (10): Nadia Mrad: From captive to defend the rights of victims of human trafficking

In August 2014, the terrorist organization carried out genocide against the Yazidis and killed thousands of men, the captivity of women and children, and the killing of women and children. Among them were Nadia Mourad, the courageous girl who fled after witnessing the killing of her loved ones and the people of her village of Kujo in Sinjar and Sbeit and were raped. Of the 6700 girls and women who were jailed, they were holding a prisoner in the grip of a booster in Mosul. After six months of suffering, and with the help of a Muslim family, she managed to escape from the organization's grip to one of the camps in Dahuk, and from there to Germany.



On December 16, 2015, I stood before the Security Council to talk about human trafficking in conflicts and wars and explained its suffering. In 2016, the United Nations appointed a Goodwill Ambassador for the dignity of survivors of human trafficking, and on 5 October 2018, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded. Today it stands as an eyewitness to human rights violations and contributes to the demand to protect the rights of women and children all over the world, not only in their homeland.

- The use of violence to discipline children, including corporal punishment, verbal intimidation, and psychological aggression, continues to be widely believed, and according to a UNICEF study, about 80% of children have experienced some kind of violence against them both at home and at school <sup>(ii)</sup>.
- Iraq still faces serious problems According to the report of the Open Budget Transparency Index of the International Budget Partnership 2015, Iraq has obtained only 3 degrees out of 100 degrees. Thus, it is still in the group that does not meet the requirements of the index of transparency of the budget and well below the global average of 45 points, according to the index, countries that have a general average to assess the transparency of the budget is less than 61 degrees are countries are not enough in the presentation of its budget.
- Birth registration is high in Iraq and is close to full coverage. In 2011, 99.2% of children under five years of age were registered in the civil registry <sup>(iii)</sup>, which is above the global average of 71%.

- In 2015, 29 journalists lost their lives in the context of their media and media work (including 20 journalists in Mosul). The number dropped to 15 in 2016 and 16 in 2017 <sup>(liii)</sup>. Until 2016, there were no effective mechanisms to protect journalists and combat impunity. But the Iraqi National Committee for the Protection of Journalists and the Fight against Impunity was formed under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Justice to monitor the protection of journalists, to report on risks and threats, and to provide official information and reports on the subject. At the initiative of the Minister of the Interior and the Directorate of Public Relations and Information at the Ministry, the Special Investigation Unit was formed in the Ministry of the Interior, which consists of three directorates: the Directorate of Counterterrorism and Crime, the Directorate of Human Rights and the Directorate of Relations and Information, to follow up all the cases of journalists and media professionals And workers in the media and press organizations and have their status in the Ministry of the Interior in Baghdad and have a presence in all provinces through the police leadership <sup>(liv)</sup>.
- According to the World Peace Index issued by the Institute of Economics and Peace and the University of Sydney, Iraq is among the countries with the highest threat to peace, and ranks 160 out of the 163 countries included in the guide; as a result of high indicators of violence and deaths resulting from them and displacement and the likelihood of terrorist operations and other indicators on which the evidence depends. The economic cost of violence as a percentage of GDP is estimated at 51%, which includes the direct and indirect costs of violence <sup>(iv)</sup>.

#### Framework (11): Questionnaire on Goal 16 the indicators

The first activity of the Sustainable Development Network 2030, in late 2018 and January 2019, was to collect informal data for SDGs indicators, particularly Goal 16. Since Facebook is one of the most popular social networks in Iraq, the SDN has used it to collect such data through a questionnaire.

The VNR team prepared a set of yes/no questions by age group and gender. The SDN developed the questionnaire using Google forms and published it on the Facebook pages of local NGOs, youth and academics (from different regions of Iraq) encouraging people to share their experiences by answering its questions. There were about 1000 responses in the first three weeks of January 2019. The collected data were sent to the VNR team.

The questionnaire included seven questions, three related to respondents' gender and governorate. The other four questions cover four Goal 16 indicators, for which no data were available.



These four questions are:

Question:	Indicator
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you feel safe when you walk on the street?</li> </ul>	16-1-4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can you access the court and police stations easily to report a bad situation or take your right by law?</li> </ul>	16-3-1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are you willing to give a gift or pay money to facilitate your transactions (speed up procedures, cut related costs, avoid paying a fine, to be safe with your family)?</li> </ul>	16-5-1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are you satisfied with public services?</li> </ul>	16-6-2

Although the questionnaire was not promoted by Facebook promotion services and prepared only in Arabic then posted on the partner NGO page, there were 1044 respondents, a good number given the short response time (23 days) between 31 December 2018 and 22 January 2019. The percentage of women was 40.2% and the men were 59.8% among Iraq's 18 governorates. One-third of the respondents were from Baghdad 36.1%, then Diyala 16.4% and these two governorates alone accounted for 52.5% of the sample size, followed by Neynawa 6.9%, Najaf 4.8%, Al-Qadisiyyah 4.6%, and Dhi Qar 4.4%. Young people aged 20-30 years were 29.7%, the highest among the questionnaire's five age groups, 23.9% for the second category 31-40 years, 24.9% for 41-50 years, and 15.6% for 51-60 years and finally 5.9% for 61-70 years.

At the governorate level, there was a difference in individual attitudes:

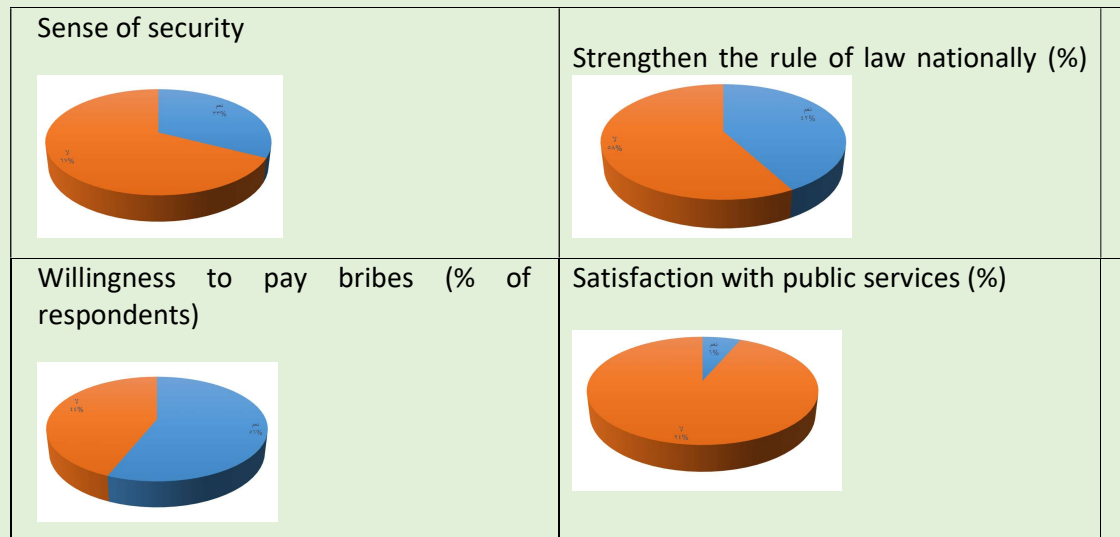
**The first question:** The provinces of Dohuk and Erbil in the forefront of the provinces in terms of the feeling of security, followed by Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Najaf and Sulaymaniyah. While Basra was the least safe from the perspective of the sample.

**The second question:** The highest percentages were in Missan, who answered affirmatively about access to justice, while the lowest percentages were in Dohuk, Muthanna, Arbil, and Wasit. While Baghdad ranked fourth in terms of the percentage of respondents who said they can reach justice.

**The third question:** It can be found that the willingness to pay bribes is higher in Erbil, Karbala and Diyala, and less in Wasit, Sulaymaniyah, Maysan, and Najaf.

**The fourth question:** The provinces of the three Kurdistan region (Erbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk) were the top in terms of the level of satisfaction with the performance of the

government in terms of satisfaction with the services provided to them, while Qadisiyah, Dhi Qar, and Baghdad were the least provinces in which respondents expressed their satisfaction with services General to them.



As part of the second objective, Iraq seeks to develop a range of intervention options that ultimately aim at laying the foundation for good governance and building a secure society:



### Good governance and secure society Intervention options



- Combat corruption, improve financial and administrative monitoring and increase transparency
- Realize greater decentralization and delegate more powers to local levels
- Build sustainable peace, especially in the liberated areas, re-integrate the returnees and create sustainable livelihoods, employment and services in these areas
- Develop e-governance

Source: Iraq Vision 2030

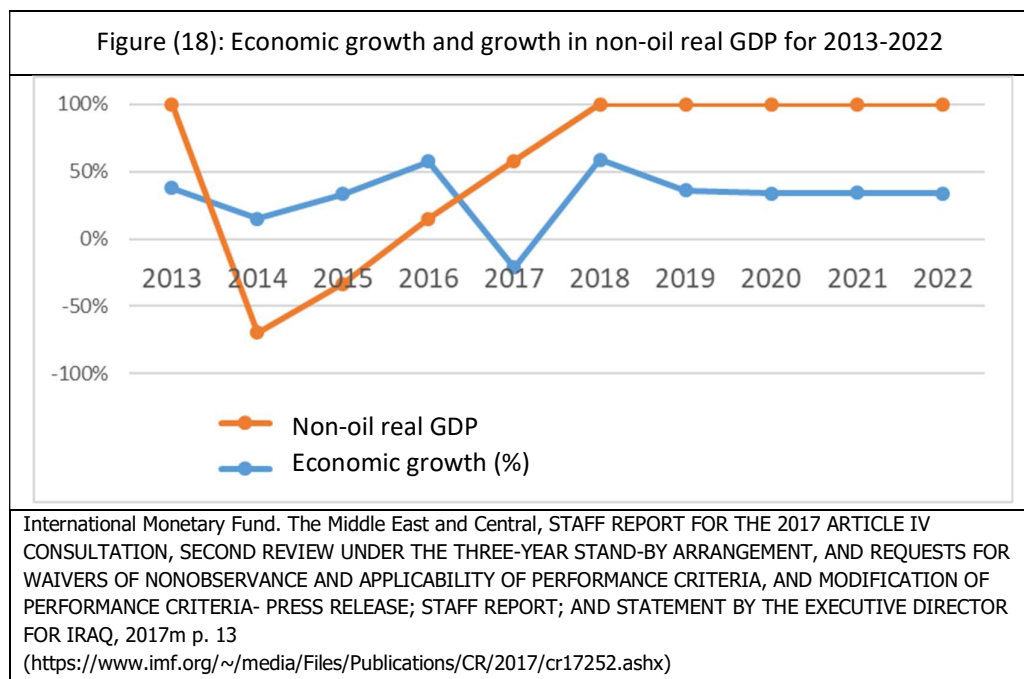
## 5-3: Economic Diversification

Relying on oil impose excessively makes the Iraqi economy highly sensitive to international circumstances, which in turn affects the government ability to mobilize enough financial resources for SDGs related investments, and most importantly incorporating those SDGs in the federal budget priorities. On the other hand, the unilateralism of the Iraqi economy is weakening its integration into the global economy.

In 2014, the so-called double crisis resulted from the collapse of oil prices. The price of Basra light crude fell from 105.8 dollars per barrel in June 2014 <sup>(lvi)</sup> to 32.06 dollars per barrel in December 2015, \$ 24.73 / barrel in January 2016 <sup>(lvii)</sup>. The second crisis was the occupation of terrorist organizations by the occupation of Mosul, Salahuddin, Anbar, and part of Diyala province.

The decline in oil prices has led to a reduction of revenues of Iraq's oil exports by about \$ 35 billion in 2015. The increase in oil production and exports in 2016 led to a slight increase in oil revenues, despite the continued decline in oil prices <sup>(lviii)</sup>.

After the strong growth achieved in the years 2009-2013, which averaged about 9% according to the estimates of the International Monetary Fund slowed economic activity to 0.7% in 2014 and rose to 4.8% in 2015. Even for non-oil economic activity was also negatively affected As a result of the double crisis, the sector shrank in cumulative terms with a decline of 21.6% during the period 2014-2016 (see figure below). The areas occupied by terrorist organizations suffered as a result of the destruction of productive assets and infrastructure, the disruption of trade routes and the collapse of investor and consumer confidence.



For its part, the government has been forced to significantly reduce non-security spending significantly to secure the cost of war, as its oil revenues decline, its ability to provide public services and meet the needs of displaced people is reduced. The reduction included non-oil investment spending more than others. While the government continued to pay the salaries of about 3 million employees and about 1.5 million retirees.

The government signed an agreement with the Kurdistan Region in December 2014 stipulating that the federal government to pay 17% of the federal budget to the territorial government (minus the sovereign expenses) in exchange for the region to export 550 thousand barrels per day of production areas under his control, including oil Kirkuk through the port of Ceyhan. The agreement was suspended in June 2015 until July 2016 due to non-compliance with agreed quantities and only 150,000 barrels, and less later, to start exporting oil for itself. In August 2016, the two sides agreed to resume oil exports and share their revenues equally until the end of 2016 (lix).

## **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**

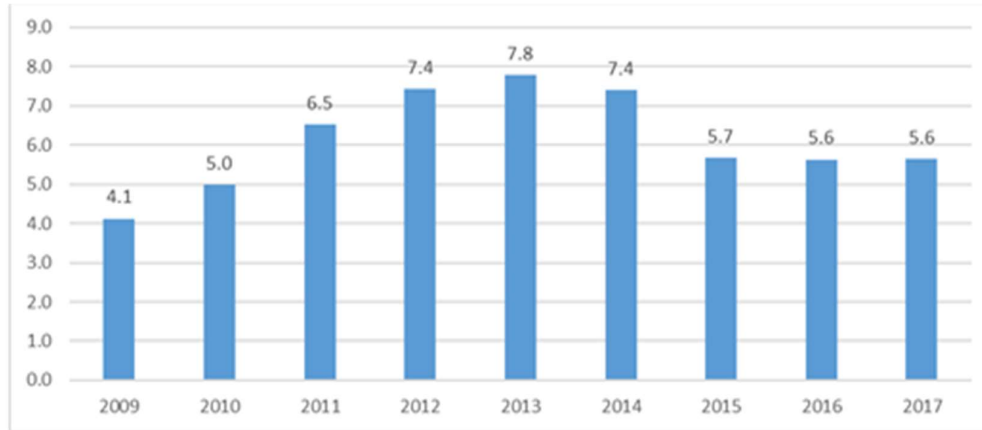
The prospects for economic growth are likely to improve in the future thanks to the improved security conditions and gradual investment increases in reconstruction. However, this is subject to appropriate structural reforms to sustain growth. Oil production in 2019 is expected to return to pre-2017 levels when the OPEC's production cut agreement expires. As from 2020, oil production is expected to reduce, which will affect economic growth because the Iraqi government will not be able to bear the potential increase in production costs. At the same time, increased investment in reconstruction is expected to improve non-oil economic growth rates. On the other hand, structural reforms, including those related to public sector financial management, service delivery, business environment, and the financial sector, will be unsustainable (lx).

Risks to the future of economy come from fluctuating oil prices, failure to improve the security situation, failure to implement the fiscal reforms required to control current spending and prioritize investment for reconstruction and sustainable development. While oil prices are expected to remain above the bottom of 2016, forecasts say they will on average remain 50% lower than 2014 prices. Foreign debt is expected to remain largely linked to oil prices or exchange rates. Iraq could once again witness a financial crisis if conflict and violence reignite.

- According to national sources, the GDP growth rate during 2010-2015 was about 6.6%. GDP at current prices was IQD 226 trillion in 2017, up from 203.9 trillion in 2016, driven by higher oil prices, increased oil exports and relatively stable security situations (lxi).

- The average GDP per capita at current prices was about IQD 6.1 million (\$ 5160) in 2017, up from 5.6 million (\$ 4737) in 2016 <sup>(lxii)</sup>.

Figure (19): Average per capita GDP at current prices 2009-2017



Source: the Republic of Iraq, Ministry of Planning, Central Statistical Organization, Annual Statistical Group 2017, page 507

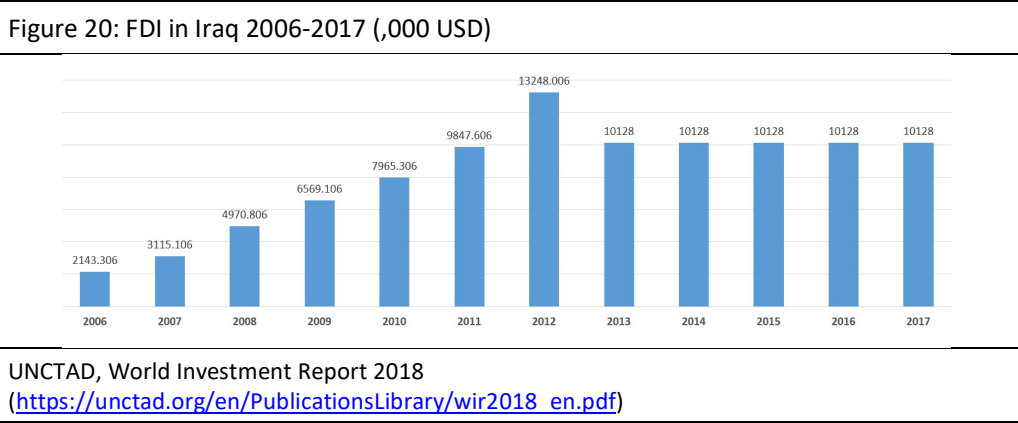
- In 2018, the economic activity rate for individuals aged 15 years and over was 42.8% (72.7% for men and 13.0% for women <sup>(lxiii)</sup>).
- Unemployment for 15 years and over was 13.8%. It rose to 27.5% for the age group 15-24 years <sup>(lxiv)</sup>. Unemployment can be expected to fall because the government pledge to re-appoint health professions university graduates, refinance government projects for unemployed persons and re-establish affordable lending programs for them.

Table (8): Unemployment rates (2007-2017)

	Data source	Male	Female	Total
2007	Social, economic and social survey 2007	11.7	11.7	11.7
2012	Social, economic and social survey 2012	9.9	22.6	11.9
2014	Continuous survey 2014	8.4	21.9	10.6
2016	Food security survey 2016	8.5	22.2	10.8
2017	Iraq Poverty Monitoring and Assessment Survey	10.9	31.0	13.8

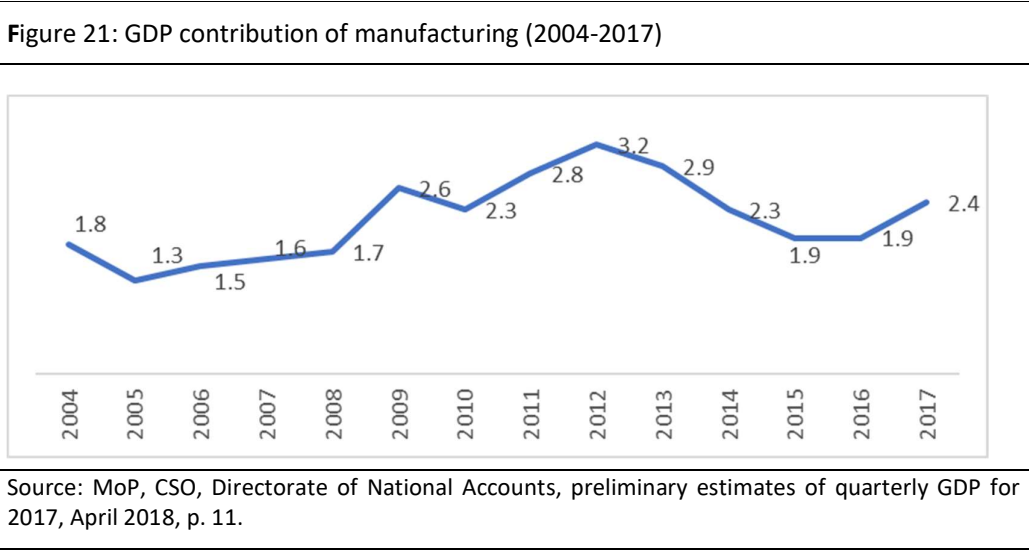
- Half of the wage earners work in the government sector. 90% of the working women are in the government sector <sup>(lxv)</sup>.
- Underemployment is 28.19% in 2014 <sup>(lxvi)</sup>.
- The banking sector suffers underdevelopment, the dominance of government banks, lack of banking density, and difficult to get loans. 22.7% of the population over 15 years had a bank account in financial institutions in 2016 (women 19.5% and men 25.8%). The government has taken an important step towards enhancing the financial coverage through the decision to settle the salaries of employees of the public sector, the public and the retired and covered by social protection, which means after completion of increasing the number of beneficiaries of banking services to include all these groups, or about six million people, which will enable them to get Loans and advances from banks where salaries have been settled. But the challenge is to achieve financial inclusion for the poor, who are still far from using banking services.
- The agriculture and industry sectors suffer from serious problems resulting from the continued unequal competition of imported goods and the high exchange rate of the local currency, which led to higher production costs in these sectors and led to a decline in their contribution to GDP since 2004, where the GDP contribution of both sectors declined from 6.9% in 2004 to 3.4% in 2017. In non-oil GDP, the decline was greater: from 16.5% to 5.6% for the same period. Although agriculture is the second largest sector after oil in terms of GDP contribution, it is also the main source of livelihood for poor and vulnerable groups and provides jobs for the rural population.
- The GDP contribution of the industrial sector increased slightly from 1.8% in 2004 to 2.4% in 2017. The contribution to non-oil GDP decreased from 4.2% to 4.0% during the same period.
- The efforts to attract foreign investments have not been fruitful, in particular, the Investment Law No. 13 of 2006, which provided important advantages to investors, these efforts did not produce an attractive investment. The total FDI between 2013 and 2017 was \$ 20.291 million in 115 projects, mostly in the oil

sector (66.2%), followed by real estate (15.6%), in addition to poor investment attractiveness compared to Arab countries, and the lack of basic investment attraction requirements, mainly macroeconomic performance, financial intermediation, financing capabilities and the business environment (lxvii)



### SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

- The GDP contribution of the manufacturing industry was only 2% in 2014 and 2015, while it was 13.9% at the end of the 1980s. The sector deteriorated after economic sanctions (1990-2003) and the loss of security after 2003.



- The GDP contribution of the transport and communications sector was about 10.3% in 2017, rising from 5.3% in 2016 <sup>(lxviii)</sup>.
- The GDP contribution of air transport remains low at IQD 342 billion (0.1% at current prices).
- The number of mobile lines reached 35.95 million in 2016. The teledensity rose to 92.3 telephones per 100 people. 60.1% of Iraqi males have mobile phones compared to 39.9% for females.
- The number of internet subscribers was 2.209 million in 2016.
- The Central Bank of Iraq adopted in 2015 an ambitious project for microcredit, with the participation of 34 private banks and one government bank, with a total amount of up to one trillion Iraqi dinars, and until the end of 2018, more than 73 billion dinars were lent, 59% of which were for commercial projects, 25% for service projects, 12% for industrial projects and 4% for agricultural projects <sup>(lxix)</sup>.

#### Framework (12): Strategic projects supporting the SDGs: Al Faw Grand Port

The foundation of al-Faw was laid in 2010, with a total cost of \$ 5 billion. It includes integrated industrial eco-friendly zones, supported by all infrastructure in order to receive local and international private investors.

The port is expected to host investment projects including a cargo airport, a petrol refinery, a petrochemical plant and a residential area for half a million people.

The port includes 46 docks for container ships, large storage areas of more than 2 million square meters with a capacity of 99 million tons per year. On March 6, 2019, the Council of Ministers instructed the completion of the project and authorized the minister of transport to complete the related maritime infrastructures.

Iraq seeks, within the third objective, and according to the reviewed indicators to develop a range of options for intervention, which aims ultimately to diversify the economy:





## Economic diversification: Intervention options



- Ensure sustainable growth of the national economy
- Boost the role of the private sector and make it a leading rather than a secondary partner in development
- Ensure coverage of financial services and increase the number of people using modern financial services, especially among the poor and women
- Improve the business and investment environment, enhance entry transparency and establish new investments



- Diversify the economy and increase the GDP contribution of the industrial sector
- Ensure poor-friendly economic reforms
- Introduce modern technologies and improve the economy response to them
- Attract FDI
- Develop the local financial markets
- Improve the business environment and boost private sector contribution
- Complete the reconstruction requirements, especially in the areas liberated from terrorist organizations

Source: Iraq Vision 2030

## 5-4: Sustainable Environment

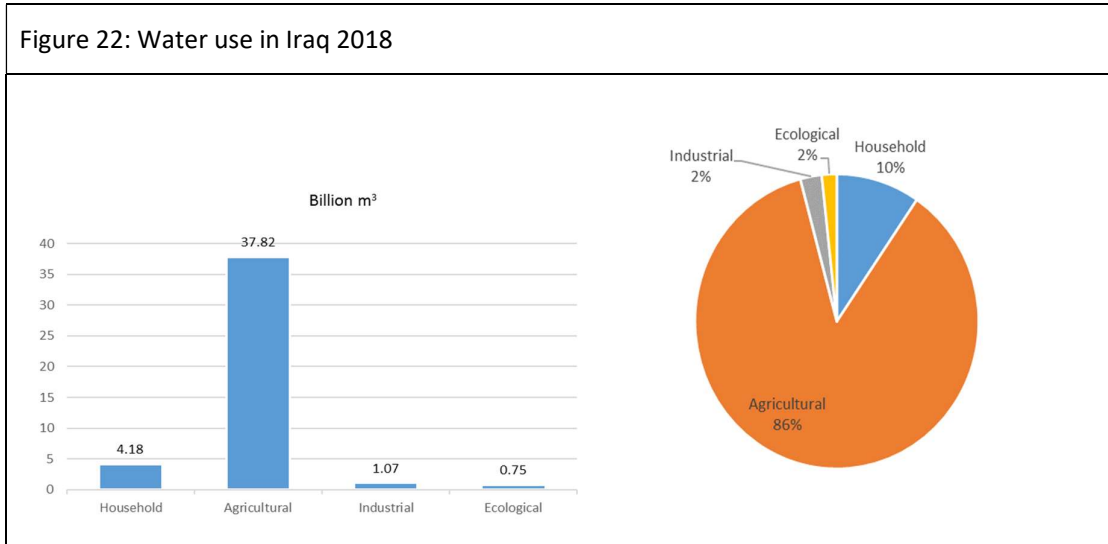
The environment still needs increased national attention. The evaluation shows poor national attention to the priority of the planet. The day-to-day priorities and institutional data are competing to support the attention required by the four goals of this priority.

The total land area of Iraq is 438,317 sq.km, of which 94500 sq.km (21.6 %) is agricultural land. 11.9 % is arable land and 9.1 % is lawns and rangelands. Forests account for only 1.9% <sup>(lxx)</sup>.

## SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

- 78% of the Iraqi population is served with potable water in all governorates except for Baghdad, where the percentage is close to 100%. It rises in urban areas to 86% and drops in the countryside to 66%. This percentage was affected by terrorist operations, especially after 2014, the proportion of people served with drinking water was 84% in 2014 <sup>(lxxi)</sup>.

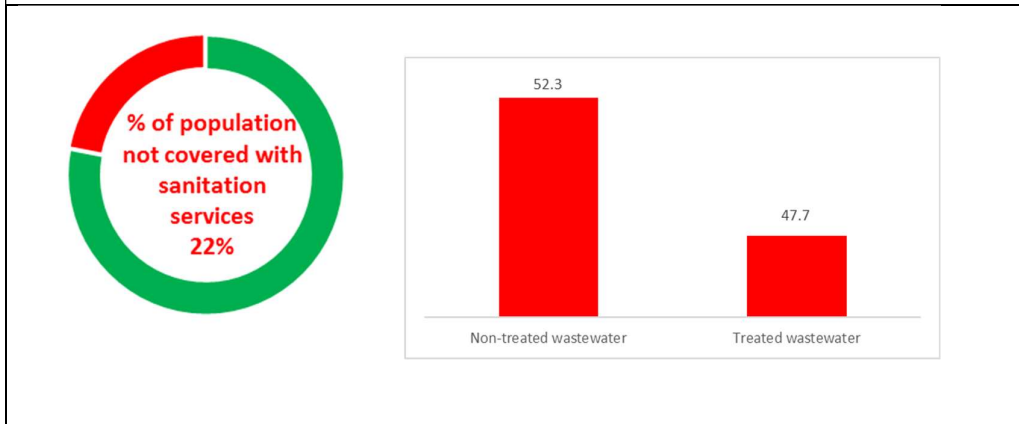
- 47.7% of wastewater was safely treated in 2016.
- The implementation of integrated water resources management in 2017 was around 25.1, indicating low performance.



## SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

- Urban population accounted for 69.8% compared to 30.2% in the countryside in 2017. The percentage varies by governorate. It rises in Baghdad to 87.5%, and drops in Babil, Muthanna and Salah al-Din to 50% (lxxii).
- 65.7% of the total population are served by a waste pickup. However, this service is 91.3% in urban areas and only 7.5% in rural areas because municipalities are not responsible for services in villages and rural areas outside the municipal boundaries in accordance with the amended municipal administration law No. 165 of 1965 (lxxiii). However, households still face serious problems in the disposal of household waste. According to the results of the 2018 Iraq Poverty Monitoring and Assessment Survey, only 53% of households are disposed of by the municipality. About 25% of the waste is dumped outside the homes. Burned, and 8% placed in their custom containers.
- Illegal construction expanded over agricultural land around the cities, and informal housing spread in the vicinity of most cities. In addition, people of internal areas abandoned their homes towards the suburbs which became underdeveloped. There are 3687 informal settlements, 1022 in Baghdad alone followed by Basrah (677), Dhi Qar (333) and Kirkuk (279).

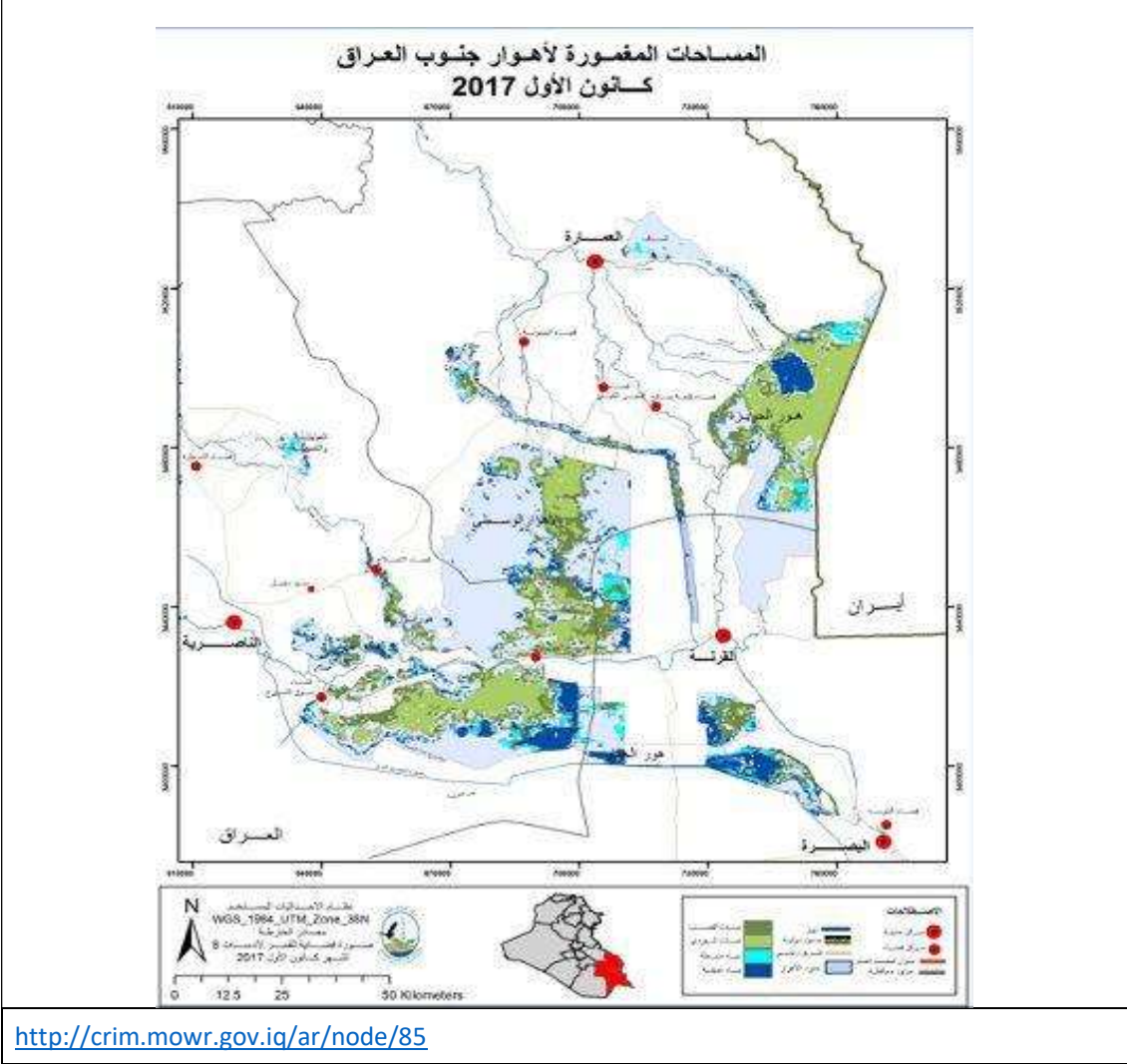
Figure 23: Coverage of public services in 2018



- Public services are still a problem. They face intense public spending competition by other types of spending, especially salaries and wages, which accounts for 53.4% of total current spending in the federal budget of 2018. Together with social welfare (22.7%) and public debt service (16.7%), they constitute 92.8% of total current spending in 2018 <sup>(lxxiv)</sup>. This reduces the quality and coverage of provided services, especially between rural and urban areas, which negatively affects women, poor groups, and people with disabilities.
- The World Bank and MoP estimated reconstruction costs at \$ 88.2 billion, while the value of losses in non-oil GDP resulting from the conflict until 2017 amounted to about \$ 107 billion <sup>(lxxv)</sup>. It is supposed to spend \$ 22.9 billion in the short term and \$ 65.3 billion over the long term <sup>(lxxvi)</sup>
- The Reconstruction Fund for Areas Affected by Terrorist Operations was established in accordance with Article 28 of the federal budget law 2015. It is a coordinating body between international organizations and Iraqi ministries in the reconstruction process to implement medium-term and long-term reconstruction operations in liberated areas. The government initially allocated IQD 500 billion for the Fund in the 2015 budget. Later, the fund resources will come from friendly nations in addition to the state budget allocations. The Fund will reconstruct areas affected by terrorist acts throughout Iraq.
- Between 1970 and 2003, about 90% of the Marshlands were dried up or destroyed, and most human settlements disappeared, particularly in Hawr al-Hawzah. About 170,000 inhabitants were forced to flee or re-locate in other areas. Those who stayed suffered from poverty and deprivation. After 2003, the Marshlands rehabilitation process was encouraged and supported. Many communities, institutions and organizations seek to restore the Marshlands.

38% have been restored and work is underway to restore 70% of the 1970 lands (lxxvii).

Map (1): Submerged lands in the Marshlands, December 2017



<http://crim.mowr.gov.iq/ar/node/85>

**SDG 13: Environmental action**

No single country is addressing the challenges posed by climate change. For the climate of tomorrow and access to low carbon growth paths, the international conferences on climate change were held at the Twenty-Fourth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in response to the objectives of Goal 13 of the Sustainable Development Plan 2030, calling for urgent action to address And called on developed countries to mobilize \$ 100 billion

annually to expand climate change mitigation and adaptation measures by integrating them into national policies, strategies, and plans.

Iraq's climate is diverse and extreme, it varies due to the different terrain between center, south, and north of Iraq. There is high variation in temperature between seasons and even days. 90% of Iraq's climate is dry, and temperatures in the long and dry summers rise to about 56°C in some days.

Environmental sustainability is a key concern in the SDGs 2030, which focus on water, sanitation, energy, cities and climate change. Climate change will have an increasing impact on sustainable development, ranging from the direct impact of extreme weather to the long-term effects of drought and desertification on food production, malnutrition and spread of diseases, particularly among vulnerable and poor populations.

Climate change is an existential challenge due to its serious consequences. The possibility that temperatures by 2050 will rise 1-2 degrees means extreme climate change and it has potential negative impacts and threats to people's security, well-being and access to resources in an easy and affordable way. It has also direct threats to the rights of vulnerable groups in getting safe and nutritious food and clean water, all of which could jeopardize sustainable development efforts. According to a study by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Iraq is expected to be affected by climate change due to the shrinking of coastal areas which is likely to put more pressure on other regions to meet the growing needs of the population <sup>(lxxviii)</sup>

#### Framework (13): Voluntary work: the project of planting one million trees

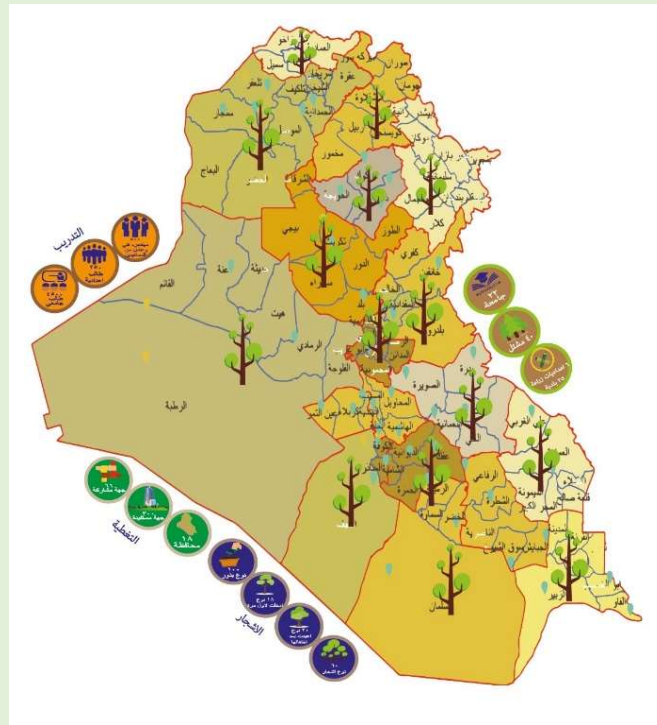
In 2016, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research launched a voluntary project to plant one million trees throughout Iraq for a period of five years. The project was launched on the basis of the establishment of agricultural colleges in public universities, but soon most of the faculties of 22 universities and 6 institutes of agriculture Governorates 25 municipalities and the Secretariat of Baghdad, as well as coordination with the General Secretariat of the threshold Husseiniya, and the project seeks a number of objectives, including:

- To spread the culture of afforestation and awareness of the importance of the tree and its outputs to preserve the environment and face climate change.
- Provide training opportunities on productive projects to implement the principle of the green economy.
- Promoting a culture of volunteerism.

- Training students in the faculties of agriculture to select the appropriate varieties for the environment of each region.

The most important outputs of the project:

- Provide 500 training opportunities for engineers, technicians and agricultural workers, more than 250 students in the preparatory stage and more than 4500 university students.
- 100 kinds of seeds were provided.
- The introduction of 18 species of trees for the first time to Iraq.
- Return 20 species of trees that have disappeared from Iraq.



The issue of environment and climate change is still a priority issue, and there are still issues related to energy efficiency, oil exploitation activities, electricity generation and the lack of adequate public transportation systems, which are slowly moving into national dialogues and which have negative impacts on the environment. This goal suffers from the greatest lack of data expressed, so the challenge of data seems strongly perceived in this goal, which is the least in terms of availability.

- The volume of water reserves in Iraq has decreased from about 157 billion cubic meters to about 50 billion cubic meters in 2015 due to climate change, scarcity of rain and lack of water imports from the source countries <sup>(lxxix)</sup>. As well as the high level of water poverty due to evaporation from rivers or lakes and reservoirs estimated at 8 billion cubic meters annually <sup>(lxxx)</sup>. While the volume of water reservoirs in June 2019 amounted to 58.4 billion cubic meters <sup>(lxxxi)</sup>.
- The amount of water withdrawn from the surface water for the 2016-2017 water year is about 40.7 billion cubic meters, lower than the previous water year of 54.7 billion cubic meters, so the reservoirs of lakes, reservoirs, and rivers have been used <sup>(lxxxii)</sup>.
- The wet year in Iraq in 2019 and the increase in rainfall rates have expanded the agricultural plan from about 1 million acres to about 5 million acres for the current agricultural season.
- Total groundwater reserves are around 1000 billion cubic meters, according to the Ministry of Water Resources, while the maximum sustainable groundwater is 5.2 billion cubic meters annually <sup>(lxxxiii)</sup>.
- According to the official data for 2016, about 160588 dunums of the country's total area is threatened by desertification <sup>(lxxxiv)</sup>.
- Iraq contributes about 0.37% of the world's total CO2 emissions according to 2005 statistics, equivalent to 99 million metric tons <sup>(lxxxv)</sup>.

#### Framework (14): Success Story: Green Oasis in the Karbala Desert

The first phase of the project was completed with an area of 7,500 dunums. The project started on November 1, 2018. The project includes 14 axes, each covering an area of Between 80-120 dunums, each fed by a well. Five varieties of wheat are grown.



In order to face the climate challenge, Iraq sought to address the effects of climate change, making coordination between national legislation and policies and international measures mainly to mitigate the effects of climate change tomorrow and to activate their results efficiently and efficiently. Iraq has an environmental institutional framework that gives it the power to achieve a secure investigation of its environment by <sup>(lxxxvi)</sup>:

- Establishment of the Environmental Protection and Improvement Department under the Environment Protection and Improvement Act No. 3 of 1997, under which the Council for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment was established.
- The Ministry of Environment was established on August 7, 2003, and entrusted with the tasks and competencies stipulated in the Law for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment No. (3) of 1995, and added other competencies commensurate with the global concern for the environment.
- The Ministry of Environment was reorganized, its administrative structure, its functions, and its management under the Law of the Ministry of Environment No. (17) of 2011, which regulated the departments of the ministry and its divisions and formations.
- The Law of Protection and Improvement of Environment No. (27) for the year 2009 regulated the technical and legal work of the Ministry, which included provisions for the protection of man, the environment and biodiversity.
- Iraq's accession to the Framework Convention on Climate Change under Law No. (7) for the year 2008, and Iraq ratified the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Quito Convention on July 28, 2009, and entered into force on October 26, 2009 and since this History Iraq is working hard to fulfill its obligations towards it. It has also begun to form a national unity within the Division of Air Quality Control and Noise to lead the issue of climate change at the national level and to undertake the necessary regional and international coordination.
- Formation of the Permanent National Committee for Climate Change, which is responsible for following up the development of national policies and procedures for climate change, and encouraging all institutions through their representatives to implement these policies and develop the necessary action plans for their implementation, awareness raising, and capacity building.

Iraq seeks, under the fourth objective, and according to the indicators reviewed, to develop a range of intervention options aimed at the end to improve the environment and sustainability:





## Sustainable environment: Intervention options



- Cover all the population with drinking water supply
- Cover all the population with sanitation services
- Enhance the management of water services and solve the issue of fee collection from water and sanitation consumers
- Improve a culture of health especially among the poor and rural population



- Control illegal expansion to agricultural lands
- Address the informal settlement problem
- Direct more investments to infrastructure that supports sustainable development and economic activity, increase private sector activity and improve the situations of poor population
- Collect evidence to measure progress towards this Goal



- Increase attention to and awareness of climate issues and related risks
- Address the impact of climate change, which threatens the vulnerable groups access to safe and nutritious food and clean water
- Reduce waste in water resources
- Collect indicators to measure progress towards this Goal

## 6: Means of implementation

Iraq needs a long and arduous effort to complete adopting SDGs and to improve planning frameworks and mechanisms for mobilizing resources for development. And that requires:

- Conduct a comprehensive national review of the development situation and determine where we stand now, and then agree on the steps of improvement hoped.
- Take urgent steps to bridge the data gap to monitor progress towards the goals. That calls for improved cooperation between relevant ministries, building local and national statistical capacities, and establishing sustainable and participatory mechanisms to collect data on indicators of SDGs then classify it locally and nationally depending on gender, environment and population groups.
- Broad use of policy goals indicators.
- Promote sustainability culture by developing education curricula, changing individual and collective behavior patterns towards sustainability and creating an informed generation of the challenges facing its future destiny.
- Promoting a culture of tolerance and citizenship, motivating productive work, social solidarity, volunteering, and developing productive and life skills and knowledge, especially among young people.
- Achieve the vision of Iraq 2030 and integrate the principles and goals of sustainable development through a participatory process involving stakeholders from the public and private sectors and civil society.
- Promote sustainable growth in which economic sectors have a greater role besides the oil sector.
- Development finance is a major challenge in overall development efforts, and those linked to SDGs achievement. Funding for education, health, and environment is still very low with a sharp decline in investment spending, which is essential under high population growth (2.4%). This can constrain achieving the goals, especially as the situation is likely to deteriorate and the oil export revenues are still unstable with rising internal and external public debt.

## 6-1: Capacity-Building

It is important to find a set of measures that would enhance national and local capacities to improve data collection and monitoring of achievements and to conduct national, local and sectoral reports covering various aspects of the sustainable development process.

- Build self-capacity for good governance, including designing, implementing and evaluating sustainable development policies, improving the effectiveness of government institutions and accelerating institutional reform.
- Improve consistent planning for sustainable development so that the goals become a guide for national development policies and plans.
- Strengthen statistical capacity to improve goal indicators and narrow its gap. Provide geographical, gender and good governance data.
- Development of non-traditional data sources through the adoption of innovative methods of data collection and through partnerships with the private sector and non-governmental organizations.
- Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and accountability capacities.

## 6-2: Tripartite Partnership

There is no doubt that building strong multi-stakeholder partnerships has been a fundamental basis for knowledge mobilization and sharing when expertise, technologies and financial resources are provided to support implementing the SDGs 2030. Thus, coordination between the relevant institutions was strong and decisive. In this context, the government implemented inter-ministerial activities on SDGs and set up technical working groups to collect, provide and verify data and to conduct follow-up reports in accordance with organized mechanisms. Coordination mechanisms are constantly being developed to facilitate implementation and to report on national goals and indicators. Through dialogue platforms, national committees have provided a high level of direct and sustainable partnerships among various government stakeholders, private sector actors, civil society organizations, NGOs, academia, youth and international community with the common international SDGs.

Our vision of achieving SDGs is based on a tripartite partnership between government, private sector, and civil society, and on enabling all stakeholders to participate in planning, implementation and oversight processes, and playing an appropriate role in their operations. Several workshops were held for stakeholders to build capacity at all VNR stages. And volunteerism should be integrated into development planning processes, particularly with regard to the implementation of

sustainable development goals, and the importance of an electronic platform for communication between volunteer organizations and actors.

It should be noted that the number of local NGOs in Iraq earlier in 2019 is about 3541 organizations <sup>(lxxxvii)</sup>. The crisis created by the war against terrorist organizations has presented several organizations that face displacement, violence, post-crisis pressure and social rehabilitation.

Local media and civil society will be involved as key intermediaries through social and direct communication, to ensure access to all social groups. More focus is needed on women, youth and vulnerable groups, particularly refugees and displaced persons.

The partnership in peace-building includes civil society, youth, women, tribal and religious leaders. This partnership can improve the early detection of violence in areas subject to exacerbation. A broad peace-building network based on expanded NGO activity in monitoring and early warning for the possibilities of losing peace. It is important that this partnership ensures lasting relations among people, builds joint activities and overcomes ethnic, national, religious and sectarian divisions to form a network of trans-component relations. On the other hand, traditional forces, such as local communities (clans, clergy, electors...) can contribute to promoting peace-building opportunities by resolving disputes and providing alternative litigation that helps government institutions resolve many disputes over property rights and revenge in areas liberated from terrorism.

The civil society is an actor in post-conflict times, we need to recognize its vital role in peace-building, give it more space for effective movement in sustainable peace-building. It is necessary to move it to the level of social capital which will create a network to unite society and weaken the forces of sectarian and ethnic division and polarization. Moreover, enable it to take initiatives on community dialogue, women's empowerment, and terror crimes documentation. This role could develop to strengthen democracy, monitor elections and fight corruption.

### **6-3: International cooperation**

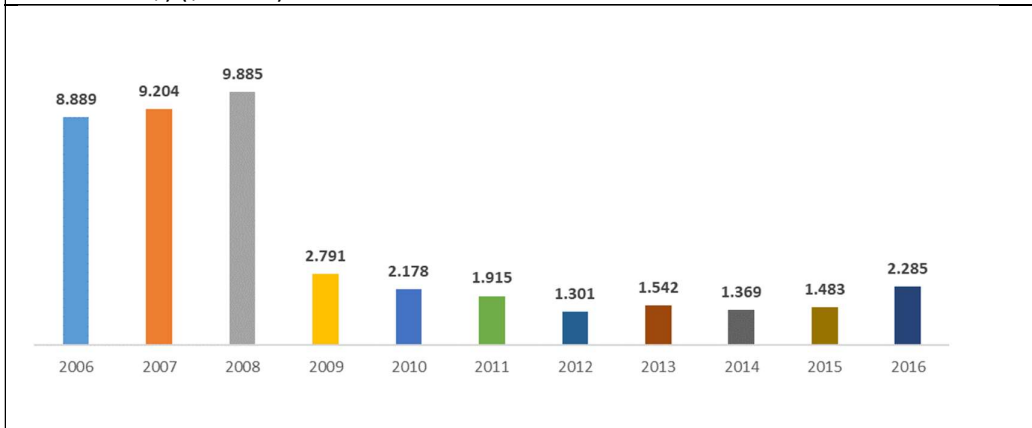
Iraq is a founding member of the UN and many global organizations and a party to several international and regional conventions. In 2008, Iraq acceded to the Framework Convention on Climate Change and ratified its Kyoto protocol on 28 July 2009 and is working hard to fulfill its obligations.

At the international and regional level, Iraq is making great efforts to cooperate with neighboring and friendly countries to meet the challenges it faces, including sustainable development, reconstruction, terrorism, and climate change consequences. Iraq is also committed to the global partnership in international efforts to achieve and promote sustainable development. Moreover, it actively participates

in the negotiations in various international forums on sustainable development, environment, and climate change. Iraq stresses with every occasion the effective implementation of the relevant international conventions through cooperation.

In the previous phase, Iraq received significant international support from international and regional organizations in large programs and projects who had a decisive role and contributed directly or indirectly to achieving the SDGs. Iraq received significant financial assistance. However, it has been decreasing since 2009 despite the increased need for it after 2014.

Figure (24): Net official development assistance and official aid received in Iraq (current value of US \$) (\$ billion)



Source: World Bank, Development Database.

On the other hand, international cooperation with Iraq has witnessed a development, especially since 2004, which included:

- UNDP, which supports a wide range of development projects.
- Other UN agencies, WFP, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and others, have supported various programs and activities and addressed the problems of displaced persons and refugees.
- The World Bank supported the preparation and implementation of both poverty reduction and the reforming the social protection system.
- GEF worked with UNDP on Iraqi environmental issues and supported the publication of Iraq's first national communication to UNFCCC in 2016.

Funding has helped to avoid the financial shock and economic and social crisis that could have seriously harmed the poor caused further delays in the economic recovery and slowed the reconstruction process. The package includes funding provided by the international community <sup>(lxxxviii)</sup>:

- The \$ 5.34 billion credit readiness with IMF.
- A \$ 1.44 billion budget support operation approved by the World Bank in December 2016, including \$ 444 million in guarantees for the Bank, provided by UK (\$ 372 million) and Canada (\$ 72 million).
- \$ 270 million in funding from JICA.
- \$ 450 million from France
- Bonds worth \$ 1 billion issued in January 2017, guaranteed by the US government.
- In August 2017, after the successful completion of the second review of the IMF program, the Iraqi government issued \$ 1 billion bonds due in 2023, the first independent issue since 2006.

## 7: Looking ahead

Achieving development goals requires mobilizing the capacities of all partners (public and private) at the local, national and international levels. The cornerstone of this process is to mobilize public resources and institutional capacities; take measures towards the localization of SDGs and their targets and indicators and incorporate them in development plans and programs; organize monitoring, evaluation, and follow-up processes; and attract more national and international resources and efforts. All these require efforts to involve the private sector and civil society in all processes.

The Iraqi government is seriously considering SDGs as an appropriate roadmap to unify national efforts, by government institutions, private sector, NGOs and educational institutions, as well as international organizations that have supported Iraq during the previous phase. The government can coordinate national development efforts, support its initiatives, and link these local and national efforts to achieve the SDGs, based on the principles and commitments of sustainable development, particularly inclusion in achieving sustainable development and benefiting from its outcomes.

This VNR is the first for Iraq on the actions are taken and 2030 plan goals. The report provided an initial review of SDGs in 2030, national actions to emphasize compliance and challenges facing it. The report also presented an analysis of the national documents, their relevance to the goals and the extent to which they serve their achievement, 2030 vision, the ministerial program, the National Development Plan and the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

This review showed a firm social commitment to development. In the darkest circumstances, the government institutions concerned with development and planning prepared these documents and held workshops, seminars, and meetings. Many stakeholders were keen to participate and hope for a better future, especially after victory over terrorist organizations and liberation.

Achieving opportunities for pursuing lasting peace and security, stability and social cohesion are prerequisites for sustainable development. However, terrorism has imposed heavy burdens on Iraq preventing it from achieving any significant progress in the region for many years. Despite the progress made by Iraq in the past two years in security, and the return of the displaced people in the liberated areas, about 2 million people still do not have the opportunity to return to their areas. The Iraqi government is continuing its efforts, in cooperation with international organizations and institutions, to restore normal life to hundreds of thousands of displaced people to return to their homes and properties. The government hopes that ending the conflict will lead to stability and progress and the consolidation of peace and justice in the entire region.

Building a comprehensive and flexible development and ensuring sustainable development requires moving from a profitable economy to a more diversified economy. Moreover, continuous investment in human development (sustainable human development), and greater engagement with regional and global markets to unleash Iraq's export capabilities and focus on social policies that promote stability.

Against the background of Iraq's development track for the past years, Iraq has adopted strategic road maps and launched a set of development strategies and plans that focused on policy measures to try to rebalance the economy by supporting the new "advanced" sectors.

As the government pursues an ambitious structural reform program in the coming years, the SDGs 2030 is a comprehensive framework that provides an integrated approach to developing, updating and strengthening strategic road maps. The complex nature of SDGs stresses the fact that development goals are indivisible and require concerted efforts from all stakeholders, not just the government.

The government's development plans and programs (both current and planned) during the period up to 2030 will be reviewed and coordinated to achieve national SDGs.

Success in implementing the 2030 sustainable development plan will also require learning from the best and most successful international experiences and practices, particularly in knowing the cooperation approach among the south countries. Iraq will remain committed to sharing and employing its knowledge and experience in its formulation and implementation of sustainable national development goals.

**But what should be done after completing the report and presenting it at the high-level political forum?**

- Sustain the networks of cooperation for sustainable development in the country and form a broad coalition (including parliament, government, civil society, and the private sector) to achieve the agenda and keep the country on the right track.
- To study obstacles to achieving SDGs and work to overcome them.
- Take inventory of strategic projects that contribute to achieving sustainable development and work on them.
- Sustain the VNR reporting process by preparing annual self-assessment reports.
- Support the relationship between the federal ministries and governorates and the region to achieve the development agenda and not only the goals.
- Develop national policies supporting implementation, and monitoring frameworks for the agenda at the national and local levels (see table below)



Table (9): Post-VNR plans 2019-2022

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Inform ministries and governorates of the VNR results after discussion at the high-level forum.	All ministries and agencies			
Develop policies in the light of VNR				
New mechanisms to include civil society and the private sector	Create sustainable development forum			
Develop policies in line with the sustainable development agenda 20130		Social protection	Education MOH	Sector Financial
Integrate SDGs into ministries' plans and strategic projects.				
Monitor and correct				
Develop data systems for SDGs	Develop a plan to bridge the data gap	make Dashboard Track progress	Improve the service quality	Develop administrative data
Prepare sustainable development reports for governorates	Al-Anbar Karbala Basrah	Baghdad Kurdistan Najaf Al-Muthanna	Meisan Dhi Qar Wasit Salah al-Din Kirkuk Diyala Al-Diwaniyah Hospital	
Develop self VNRs				
correct national and sectoral development plans from the perspective of SDGs				

## Margins and References

---

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019#vnrs> (i)

(ii) ينظر: جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، الأهداف التنموية للألفية في العراق لسنة 2014 ونظرة لما بعد عام 2015، بغداد، 2015.

(iii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، خطة التنمية الوطنية 2018-2022، ص 15-21

(iv) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، المجموعة الإحصائية السنوية 2017، ص 47

[https://www.transparency.org/files/content/pages/2018\\_CPI\\_FullResults.zip](https://www.transparency.org/files/content/pages/2018_CPI_FullResults.zip) (v)

(vi) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، خطة التنمية الوطنية 2018-2022، ص 121

(vii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، مسح حصر وتقييم اضرار المباني السكنية للقطاع الخاص نتيجة الاعمال الإرهابية والحربية، بغداد، 2017.

(viii) حول ذلك ينظر: صندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان، تقرير المراجعة لوظائف النظام الإحصائي العراقي، 2011، ص 12

(ix) جمهورية العراق، وزارة الصحة، الوضع الصحي في العراق... التحديات وأولويات العمل، بغداد، 2019، ص 18

(x) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الإدارة التنفيذية لاستراتيجية التخفيف من الفقر، استراتيجية التخفيف من الفقر 2018-2022، ص 41

(xi) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، مسح وتقويم الفقر في العراق 2018

<http://www.molsa.gov.iq/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=7359> (xii)

(xiii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة الصحة، السياسة الصحية الوطنية 2014-2023، ص 15

(xiv) المصدر السابق نفسه، ص 18

(xv) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، مؤشرات البيئة والتنمية المستدامة ذات الأولوية في العراق، بغداد، 2018، ص 20

(xvi) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، مديرية الإحصاء السكاني والقوى العاملة.

(xvii) بيت الحكمة ووزارة التخطيط، تقرير التنمية البشرية، برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي، 2014، ص 113.

(xviii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، مؤشرات البيئة والتنمية المستدامة ذات الأولوية في العراق، بغداد، 2018، ص 21

(xix) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء وآخرون، العراق: المسح العنقودي متعدد المؤشرات 2018: تقرير نتائج المسح، الجزء الأول، شباط 2019، ص 70

(xx) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، مؤشرات البيئة والتنمية المستدامة ذات الأولوية في العراق، بغداد، 2018، ص 19

(xxi) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء وآخرون، المسح العنقودي متعدد المؤشرات لعام 2018

(xxii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة الصحة، التقرير السنوي لوزارة الصحة 2017.

(xxiii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، المجموعة الإحصائية السنوية 2017، ص 785

The impact of Chronic Disease in Iraq (xxiv)  
([www.wto.int/chp/chronic\\_disease\\_report/en/](http://www.wto.int/chp/chronic_disease_report/en/))

(xxv) (<https://www.iraqbodycount.org/database/>)

(xxvi) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، المجموعة الإحصائية السنوية 2017، ص 263

(xxvii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، خطة التنمية الوطنية 2018-2022، ص 216

(xxviii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، مؤشرات البيئة والتنمية المستدامة ذات الأولوية في العراق، بغداد، 2018، ص 30

(xxix) المصدر السابق نفسه، ص 27

(xxx) موقع الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء (<http://www.cosit.gov.iq/ar/2013-02-25-07-39-31>)

(xxxi) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، المجموعة الإحصائية السنوية 2017، جدول 23/9 و جدول 24/9 ص 416-418

(xxxii) (<http://www.momd.gov.iq/Posts/RangeDownload?id=7146>)

(xxxiii)

[http://iraqdtm.iom.int/Downloads/DTM%202019/February%202019/Round108\\_Report English 2019 February IOM DTM.pdf](http://iraqdtm.iom.int/Downloads/DTM%202019/February%202019/Round108_Report%20English%202019%20February%20IOM%20DTM.pdf)

(xxxiv) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، التنمية المستدامة نحو تمكين أفضل للنساء والفتيات، بغداد، 2018، ص 6

(xxxv) موقع وزارة الداخلية العراقية  
(<https://moi.gov.iq/index.php?name=Pages&op=page&pid=111>)

(xxxvi) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، وآخرون، المسح العنقودي متعدد المؤشرات لعام 2018، ص 3

(xxxvii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، التنمية المستدامة نحو تمكين أفضل للنساء والفتيات، بغداد، 2018، ص 17

(xxxviii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، المجموعة الإحصائية السنوية 2017، ص 792

(xxxix) البنك الدولي للإنشاء والتعمير، وثيقة برنامج لقرض مقترح بمبلغ 1443.82 مليون دولار الى جمهورية العراق، (تقرير رقم: IQ-108714)، ص 34

(xl) البنك الدولي، الفقر والإدماج والرفاهية في العراق 2007-2012، واشنطن، ص 34  
(xli) المصدر السابق نفسه، ص 34

(xlii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، مسح رصد وتقويم الفقر في العراق 2018.

(xliii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، المجموعة الإحصائية السنوية 2017، 788

(xliv) البنك الدولي، تقرير عن التنمية في العالم 2011: الصراع والأمن والتنمية، الأهرام للنشر والتوزيع، القاهرة، الفصل الخامس

(xlv) المصدر السابق نفسه، ص 2

(xlvi) دوغلاس سي. نورث وآخرون، في ظل العنف: السياسة والاقتصاد ومشكلات التنمية، ترجمة: كمال المصري، المجلس الوطني للثقافة والفنون والآداب، الكويت، 2016، ص 9

(xlvii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، المجموعة الإحصائية السنوية 2017، 775

(xlviii) [www.iraqbodycount.org/database/](http://www.iraqbodycount.org/database/) (visit at 17 November 2016)

(xlix) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، المجموعة الإحصائية السنوية 2017، ص 776

(l) تقرير السفارة الامريكية في بغداد عن أوضاع حقوق الانسان في العراق، ص 34  
[https://iq.usembassy.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/245/IRAQ-HRR-2017-ARA-\(FINAL.DOC.pdf\)](https://iq.usembassy.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/245/IRAQ-HRR-2017-ARA-(FINAL.DOC.pdf))

(li) <https://news.un.org/ar/interview/2018/11/1021621>

(lii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، المجموعة الإحصائية السنوية 2017، ص 777

(liii) المصدر السابق نفسه، ص 828

---

(liv) جمهورية العراق، اللجنة الوطنية العراقية لحماية الصحفيين ومكافحة الإفلات من العقاب، الاستعراض الوطني الطوعي لأهداف التنمية المستدامة 1.10.16 و2، بغداد، 2019، ص 15

The Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), Global Peace Index 2018, (lv)  
(<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Global-Peace-Index-2018-2.pdf>)

OPEC, Monthly Oil Market Report , July 2014, p.6. (lvi)

OPEC, Monthly Oil Market Report , February 2016, p.6. (lvii)

(lviii) البنك الدولي للإنشاء والتعمير، مصدر سبق ذكره، ص 12

(lix) المصدر السابق نفسه، ص 13

(lix)

World Bank, Iraq Economic Monitor from War to Reconstruction and Economic Recovery, Spring 2018, P. 2

(lxi) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، مديرية الحسابات القومية، التقديرات الأولية الفصلية للنتائج المحلي الإجمالي لسنة 2017، نيسان 2018، ص 11

(lxii) المصدر السابق نفسه، ص 11

(lxiii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، مسح رصد وتقويم الفقر في العراق 2018.

(lxiv) المصدر السابق نفسه.

(lxv) المصدر السابق نفسه.

(lxvi) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، خطة التنمية الوطنية 2018-2022، ص 50

(lxvii) المؤسسة العربية لضمان الاستثمار وائتمان الصادرات، مناخ الاستثمار في الدول العربية 2018: مؤشر ضمان جاذبية الاستثمار، الكويت، 2018، ص 70

(lxviii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، مديرية الحسابات القومية، التقديرات الأولية الفصلية للنتائج المحلي الإجمالي لسنة 2017، نيسان 2018، ص 11

(lxix) البنك المركزي العراقي، (بيان) مبادرة الواحد تريليون دينار لتمويل المشاريع الصغيرة والمتوسطة، (14 كانون الثاني / يناير 2019) (<https://cbi.iq/news/view/968>)

(lxx) (<http://en.worldstat.info/Asia/Iraq/Land>)

(lxxi) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، خطة التنمية الوطنية 2018-2022، ص 178

---

(lxxii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، مؤشرات البيئة والتنمية المستدامة ذات الأولوية في العراق، بغداد، 2018، ص 33-34

(lxxiii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء واليونسييف، المسح البيئي في العراق 2010، ص 25

(lxxiv) جمهورية العراق، وزارة المالية، حساب الدولة لغاية كانون الأول (ديسمبر) 2018  
(<http://mof.gov.iq/SiteAssets/pages/ar/MonthlyReportForFiscalYear/A9.xlsx>)

(lxxiv)

World Bank, Iraq Economic Monitor from War to Reconstruction and Economic Recovery, Spring 2018, P. xiii

(lxxvi) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، خطة التنمية الوطنية 2018-2022، بغداد، 2018، ص 126

(lxxvi)

United Nations Integrated Water Task Force for Iraq, Managing Change in the Marshlands: Iraq's Critical Challenge, United Nations White Paper, United Nations, 2011

(lxxvii)

W. J. MCG. Tegart, G.W. Sheldon & D.C. Griffiths (ed.), Climate Change: The IPCC Impacts Assessment, WMO, UNEP, 1990, p. 3

(lxxix) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، خطة التنمية الوطنية 2018-2022، ص 31

(lxxx) جمهورية العراق، وزارة البيئة، الاستراتيجية الوطنية لحماية البيئة 2013-2017، بغداد، 2013، ص 15

(lxxxi) جمهورية العراق، وزارة الموارد المائية.

(lxxxii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة التخطيط، الجهاز المركزي للإحصاء، مؤشرات البيئة والتنمية المستدامة ذات الأولوية في العراق، بغداد، 2018، ص 75

(lxxxiii) جمهورية العراق، وزارة الموارد المائية.

(lxxxiv) المصدر السابق نفسه، ص 57

(lxxxv) World Bank, World Development Report 2010: Development and Climate Change, Washington DC., 2010, p. 362

(lxxxvi) جمهورية العراق، وزارة البيئة، البلاغ الوطني الأول: اتفاقية الامم المتحدة الاطارية بشأن تغير المناخ، حزيران (يونيو) 2015، ص 38-39

(lxxxvii) جمهورية العراق، الأمانة العامة لمجلس الوزراء، دائرة المنظمات غير الحكومية، (تمت الزيارة في 2019/1/7)

---

(lxxxvii)

[http://www.ngoao.gov.iq/uploads/certificate\\_org/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%B9%202018%20%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9.xlsx](http://www.ngoao.gov.iq/uploads/certificate_org/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%B9%202018%20%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9.xlsx)  
World Bank, Iraq Economic Monitor from War to Reconstruction and Economic Recovery, Spring 2018, P. xiv