

Promoting Dialogue and Participation (PDP)

Innovating Inclusive Dialogue and Participation for Socio-Economic Transformation

The challenge

Iraq faces pressing challenges across its socio-political and economic realms, exacerbated by factors such as economic mismanagement, political fragmentation, corruption, climate change and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The unrest that began in October 2019, particularly driven by the discontent of the youth, underscores the urgent need for reform. Demands include an end to corruption and abuses of power, improved access to basic services, reduced social inequality and improved prospects for the future.

Recognising these imperatives, the government has outlined comprehensive reforms in the National Development Plan and Iraqi Vision 2030. These range from ensuring fundamental services like water and electricity to promoting social cohesion and supporting the youth. However, progress in implementation has been slow, hampered by deep political divisions, inadequate dialogue between civil society and government officials and a lack of effective mechanisms for collaboration. Consequently, substantive and inclusive agreements on necessary reforms remain elusive.

Our approach

The project contributes to improving the overall environment for dialogue and participation in Iraq. It intends to achieve this by initiating and supporting innovative and inclusive mechanisms aiming at developing reform proposals across various socio-economic thematic areas. The project adopts an inclusive approach by bringing together government, civil society and academia stakeholders at both local and national levels. Emphasis is placed on actively involving women and youth.



Project name	Promoting Dialogue and Participation in Iraq (PDP)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project regions	Iraq
National Partner	Ministry of Planning, Iraq
Duration	04/2021 – 03/2025

The goal is to establish participation processes as a fundamental element in decision-making, advisory roles, and fostering sustainable conditions for dialogue and engagement.

Our implementing partners have conducted various pilot dialogue initiatives at national, governorate and local levels. These initiatives encompass a range of activities, from round table discussions and conferences involving stakeholders from government, civil society and academia in Baghdad, to local dialogue efforts supporting women, youth and other community members to engage with local authorities in different regions.

In addition to that, we also conduct capacity building through interactive workshops and training sessions on dialogue, communication and participation for both governmental institutions and civil society organisations.

Furthermore, the project aims to share lessons learned and experiences from other countries and projects, fostering knowledge exchange and networking to assist stakeholders in defining and promoting nationwide framework conditions for dialogue and participation.



Photo: Celebrating the successful completion of the training on dialogue and participation in Erbil - participants proudly display their certificates and joy.

The benefit

The project creates an environment conducive to open and inclusive dialogue, essential for fostering enduring societal transformations and enhancing relations and collaboration between the state and society.

A strong emphasis is placed on integrating the perspectives of Iraq's youth and women. Through youth dialogues and so-called youth camps, young individuals from various regions are trained to facilitate and engage in dialogues among their peers. A new initiative focuses on providing legal education to youth while engaging them in interactive discussions on legal topics to enhance their awareness and participation. Additionally, to strengthen communities' resilience to the impacts of climate change, the project supports local women and activists to amplify their voices and actively contribute to developing gender-sensitive policies and strategies.

Newly developed training modules and a comprehensive toolkit on dialogue and participation provide a theoretical background and practical methods to promote meaningful engagement while enhancing participants' skills in organising, facilitating and contributing to inclusive dialogues. These initiatives support civil society stakeholders to effectively articulate their needs and concerns, while equipping governmental decision-makers to collaborate constructively with civil society. Key governmental training institutions intend to incorporate the modules into their curricula and trained members of civil society organisations are actively replicating the training, further broadening its reach and impact.

Moreover, with the project's support, the government has assumed leadership of a National Working Group tasked with developing the country's first-ever National Strategy for Dialogue and Participation. Members comprises representatives from government entities, think tanks, universities and civil society organisations, fostering a collaborative and inclusive approach to the strategy's formulation.



Photo: Community committee, civil society organisations and local authorities come together in Khanaqin, Diyala, to discuss community priorities and foster collaboration during a productive roundtable meeting.



Photo: Representatives from the Ministry of Youth and Sports and Germany inaugurate the roundtable on 'Vocational Education and Training in Iraq' in Baghdad

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