

Strengthening inclusive Local Governance (iLG) in Iraq

Increasing the efficiency, inclusiveness and climate resilience of public service delivery at the local level

The challenge

Since the liberation from the so-called Islamic State in 2017, Iraq faces the challenge of political stabilisation. Dissatisfaction due to insufficient service provision has been articulated in several protest movements since 2019.

The administrative, political, and fiscal decentralisation enshrined in the 2005 Constitution and Law 21 (*Law on Governorates not Incorporated into a Region*) establishes a gradual transfer of competencies from seven sector ministries to the 15 provinces of Central Iraq. The objective is to make the provision of services the responsibility of subnational authorities. To date, provincial administrations are, however, not yet in a position to offer public services in an inclusive and efficient manner. Processes are not clearly regulated or standardised between the national level, the provinces, and districts. Climate change poses additional risks, and evidence-based and inclusive adaptation and resilience measures need to be integrated throughout. A participatory, citizen-centric, and climate-proof design of service provision therefore needs to be strengthened.

Our approach

The iLG project advises partners in Iraq, with the main focus at provincial levels, on improving administrative processes and strengthening citizen centricity. Considering Iraq’s efforts on the improvement of service delivery, iLG supports partners with advisory through strategic partnerships with existing infrastructure projects that directly address service delivery. One example is the synergy with the construction and/or rehabilitation of water treatment plants by the German Development Bank (KfW) and other projects implemented by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The iLG project focuses on increasing the efficiency and inclusiveness of selected administrative processes within water

and municipal services. For example, by adapting administrative procedures, optimising core processes and internal coordination, processes are more efficient and services can thus be provided more quickly (Output 1).

The project also focuses on making services more accessible for citizens. The needs of women and marginalised groups such as persons with disabilities are specifically considered. For example, by granting opportunities for citizens to participate in the planning, implementing, and monitoring of services or by communicating reliable information about services. Different approaches to digital participatory governance are tested (Output 2).

The horizontal and vertical coordination between administrative levels is strengthened. Exchange formats are supported with the objective to promote mutual learning about the improvement of administrative processes and citizen-orientation (Output 3).

The needs of the provinces and the lessons learned from the experiences at the local level are fed back to the national level in the context of the implementation of Law 21 (Output 4).

Finally, the project develops capacities within provincial administrations to mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience planning into public service delivery, with a focus on drinking water supply (Output 5).

Programme Name	Strengthening inclusive Local Governance (iLG) in Iraq
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Political Partner	Ministry of Planning (MoP)
Duration	03/2022 – 02/2026



Photos: Workshops and exchange events between national and sub-national levels organised by GIZ.

The methodology

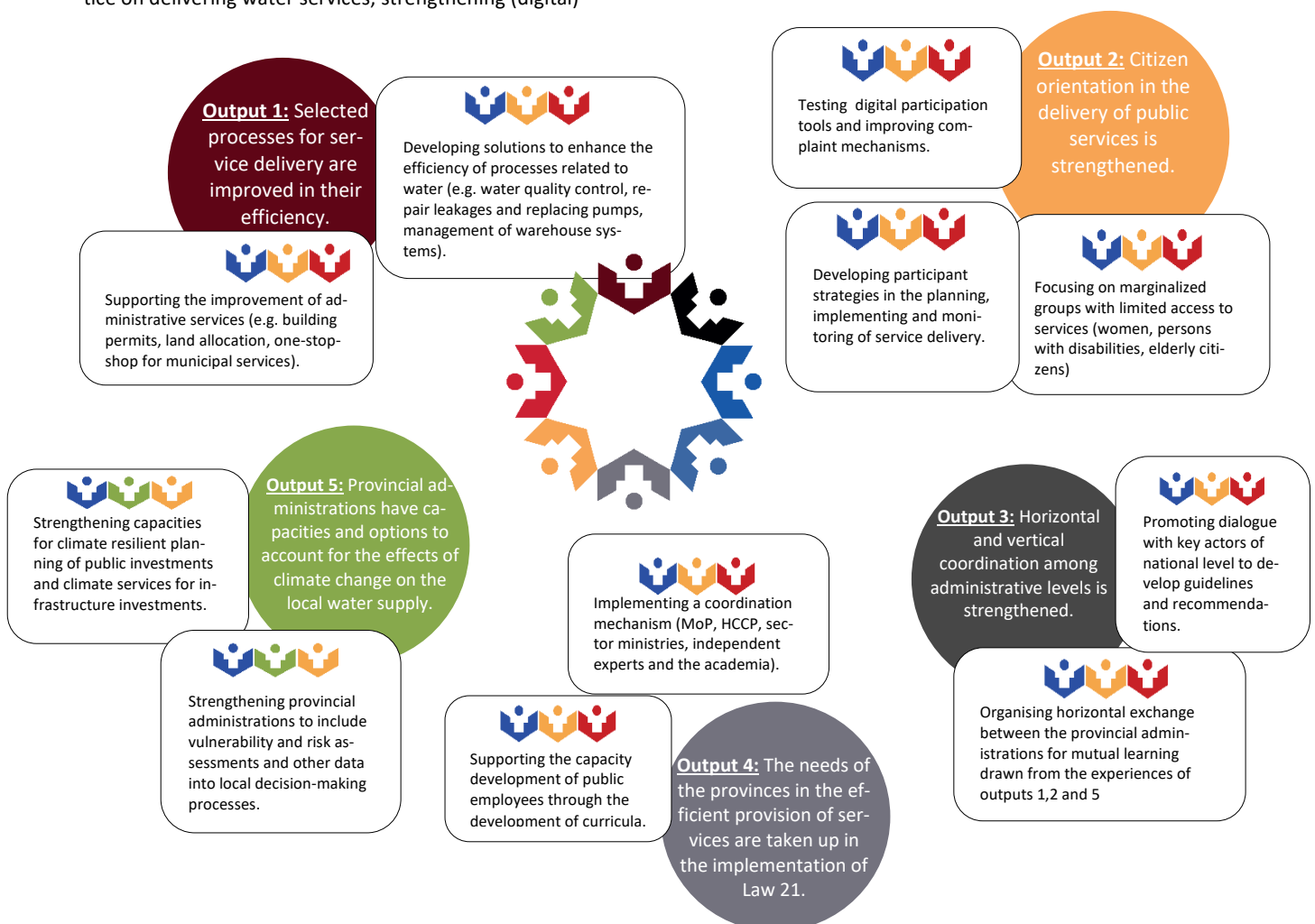
The project strengthens local governance in the provision of water and municipal services. Through measures at different levels of capacity development, the project works systematically to enhance the sustainability of its cooperation efforts:

1. *Organisational*: working with administrative units (e.g., by advising partners in the development of efficient work-flows and citizen centric solutions such as one-stop-shops)
2. *Cooperation systems*: supporting the exchange within and between central government, provinces, districts, and society members (e.g., by establishing communities of practice on delivering water services; strengthening (digital)

communication systems to connect different administrative units).

3. *Individuals*: strengthening competencies, creating learning spaces (e.g., by empowering marginalized groups to voice their needs to the administration, developing trainings for managers and technical staff in public administration).

The graphic below presents the focus of the 5 outputs.



Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

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Iraq
www.giz.de

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As of 15.01.2025

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GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

In cooperation with Iraqi Ministry of Planning (MoP), Higher Commission for
Coordination among the Provinces (HCCP), Ministry of
Construction, Housing, Municipalities and Public Works
(MoM) and Ministry of Environment (MoEnv)