



REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

Enhancing youth employability among refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities in northern Iraq

Context

The Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) hosts one of the largest number of Syrian refugees and internally displaced persons (IPDs) while also facing a significantly increasing population of young people. With a median age just over 20 years, it is estimated that over the next two decades up to 1.1 million new workers will enter the labour market.

In the past five years, poverty rates have risen exponentially and unemployment rates have remained high. Youth from refugee, IDP and host communities are particularly affected by the lack of opportunities for economic and personal development. Therefore, generating sustained employment and livelihood opportunities in KRI is paramount to strengthening human security and preventing social instability and radicalization.

Strategy

In order to turn KRI's large youth population into a productive economic resource, UNIDO has designed a multifaceted intervention program aimed at increasing the employability of youth by introducing entrepreneurship training, enhanced skills training and business support.

In coordination with the Ministry of Education, the project provides soft and life skills training coupled with upgraded competency-based technical training – including agro-food processing activities – in selected industrial, trade and agricultural secondary schools, and arranges for apprenticeship and on-the-job training for prospective employers.

In addition, the project promotes youth-led business start-ups and social enterprises by organizing business idea competitions in different areas such as information technology, waste management, agri-business, creative industries, renewable energy, etc.

Outlook

The project introduces entrepreneurship and competency-based skills training at industrial, trade and agricultural secondary schools, as well as provides support to youth-led business initiatives, to stimulate and enhance youth employability among Syrian refugees, IDPs and host communities in KRI.

At a glance

Project title: Enhancing youth employability among Syrian refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and host communities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq
Goal: To enhance self-reliance and resilience among the Syrian refugees, IDPs and host communities contributing to social stabilization and economic development.
SDGs: Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere. Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
Donor: Government of Japan
Project counterpart: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Planning of KRI
Budget: USD 1,800,000
Duration: April 2018 to March 2019