

Project summary

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Project Title: Building Community Resilience to Climate-Induced Adversities in Iraq

Date of Issue: 2 October 2024

Project Duration: 1 November 2024 until 31 March 2025

Background and Justification: The impacts of climate change and environmental degradation are increasingly evident in Iraq. Rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns have led to more frequent and severe droughts, desertification, water scarcity, floods, sand and dust storms, soil salinity, and soil pollution. This undermines agricultural productivity, food security, and health, and exacerbates structural drivers of conflict such as unequal access to services, disputes over water and land ownership, political marginalization, and lack of trust in government. This combination of environmental and human security factors contributes to community fragility and compels people to move.

Building upon the pilot phase, IOM will expand the integrated community-focused approach to enhance resilience and mitigate conflict and related mobility drivers in other locations in the Kurdish Region and Federal Iraq. The methodology, which is modelled in Phase I, places the community at the centre, supporting people to identify key resources within the community, and assess how they will be impacted by natural hazards and empowering the community to identify adaptation options.

Geographically, IOM will select an additional 5 locations of intervention across the KRI, disputed territories between KRI and Federal Iraq over a period of 2 years, in addition to the current target location of implementation in Kalar Sulaymaniyah, totalling 6 locations. These locations will be selected through consultations with the Ministry of Environment, local authorities and community groups, findings from IOM's CVAs, and additional literature review. They will also be coordinated with the ongoing Ministry of Environment Vulnerability Assessment, which identifies specific locations in Iraq impacted by climate-induced migration and displacement.

In order to build community resilience to the changing environment and to support people in their mobility choices – including the choice to stay – it is vital to understand how environmental and human security factors interact, and to work with communities to build their capacity to respond to and mitigate the adverse drivers of climate mobility. With the support of funding by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), IOM is leading a project made up of two pillars:

- (1) Provide support to Natural Resource, Conflict mediation Mechanisms: Through Develop and strengthening communal structures for resource management and conflict resolution. Identify, understand, map and build the capacity of local resources, local resource management mechanisms, local hazards, risks and displacement trends, and local conflict resolution mechanisms. The qualitative analysis will be completed in partnership with local and regional authorities, community representatives and existing resource management entities such as farmers' unions and tribal representatives, including women and youth. As part of the project, IOM will identify pre-existing mechanisms for managing disputes over natural resources and related local conflict, and will bolster these existing conflict

management mechanisms and their associated members and/or activists in the target locations through training and ongoing mentorship.

- (2) Engage in dialogue and policy development on climate action, with the aim of linking community experiences with national and sub-national political structures and expert networks (such as academics) and to support development of innovative and creative solutions to the effects of climate change.

IOM Iraq is seeking a skilled and experienced peacebuilding organization, or a partnership of organizations with skills and experience in peacebuilding, to assist in carrying out the two pillars described above. At least one organization must have permanent presence in Iraq, as well as access to and experience working across all provinces of Iraq. Demonstrated ability to conduct peacebuilding, mediation, and dialogue work with communities in fragile locations on sensitive issues is essential. The project intends to generate innovative and creative solutions to climate mobility, and organizations should also demonstrate their previous use of innovation and creative problem-solving. A conflict-sensitive approach is paramount.

Objective: The project aims to work with communities affected by climate change and environmental degradation across Iraq, to enhance their resilience and build their capacity to mitigate and respond to the adverse drivers of mobility.

Scope of Work Overview: The initial project will take place over six months and will focus on three district locations. An initial phase of the project was completed in Kalar, and Kalar will continue as one location in this current project for some, but not all, activities (see below for details). IOM will share relevant documents and information on the first phase with the successful Organization. In addition, two new locations will be included in this project. Locations will be advised by IOM – the current shortlist of locations includes southern Nasiriyah, Basra, and Sinjar district of Ninewa. The project may be extended for an additional 12 months covering an additional three locations, subject to performance and funding.

The Scope of Work includes two pillars:

PILLAR ONE: SUPPORT TO NATURAL RESOURCE AND CONFLICT MEDIATION COMMUNITY STRUCTURES.

1. **Produce 2 district-level, community-led qualitative climate-conflict-migration profiles.**
 - The Organization should conduct community-led assessments in 2 districts affected by climate mobility, resulting in 2 district profiles (more details below). The 2 district profiles should cover southern Nasiriyah, Basra, and/or Sinjar district of Ninewa, with final district locations to be confirmed by IOM. The assessments should aim to understand how local climate vulnerabilities, conflict dynamics, and mobility patterns interact. Locations will be agreed with IOM at the start of the project, utilizing DTM data on climate mobility.
 - The assessments must utilize participatory research methods, such as key informant interviews and focus group discussions with community members, in order to ensure that findings, insights and recommendations are produced together with the affected community. Other research methods such as data

analysis and remote sensing analysis (linked to climate and environmental changes) should also be utilized, where appropriate. IOM is available to provide technical support on climate data.

- Each assessment should also map existing natural resource / conflict management mechanisms, including what form they take; who the members are; the type of disputes each mechanism addresses; methodologies used; capacity and support needs; and any other relevant factors. Each assessment should include a detailed analysis of recommended interventions to enable communal
- Each assessment should be developed as a 10 page district profile that explains how local climate vulnerabilities, conflict dynamics, and mobility patterns interact and the existing mechanisms available to address disputes that arise from those dynamics.
- The profiles should provide the basis for training, dialogue and policy discussion as outlined in the deliverables below.

2. Develop and strengthen communal structures for resource management and conflict resolution.

- Based on the climate-conflict-migration assessments and mapping exercise, partners are tasked with identification of pre-existing, and/or bolster NR/CM mechanism and activists in the target location. These communal structures will be used as a community and participatory-led vehicle to manage natural resources, address emerging security or migration concerns, and provide a vertical channel for advocacy and communication with relevant authorities. Priority will be placed on strengthening existing structures while also enhancing hybrid ones that combine formal governance with communal frameworks, to not replicate or duplicate such forums in communities unnecessarily. Illustrative examples at a minimum:

3. Conduct 3 training workshops for members of existing natural resource / conflict management mechanisms.

- The Organization should conduct 3 two-day training sessions in the same locations as the district profiles plus Kalar (where the initial phase of the project took place), utilizing the mapping undertaken for each profile (and IOM's earlier work in Kalar) to identify participants of existing natural resource / conflict management mechanisms. There should be approximately 20 attendees per location.
- The objective of the training is to reinvigorate committees dedicated to natural resource and conflict management and increase their relevance and effectiveness. Training should cover issues such as sustainable resource management, conflict resolution, and climate-related adaptation strategies. Training curriculum should be developed in conjunction with IOM, building on previous training conducted in the same communities and also addressing the

dynamics or issues identified in the district profiles above. Trainings must be tailored to the needs of each community and focus on specific issues raised in the profiles, rather than providing generic modules.

- Innovative ideas for this engagement and capacity building are encouraged, with an overall mandate to enable communal structures to provide input to the themes and the training methodology. Cost effectiveness is another consideration for innovation and creativity.
- Training should identify one priority issue for the natural resource / conflict management mechanism in each location to focus on. This issue will be the focus of coaching sessions after the training (see below).

4. Provide 3 coaching sessions for one priority issue identified during training.

- In order to support the ongoing work of the natural resource / conflict management mechanism, one of the trainers should provide ongoing mentoring by way of (at least) 3 coaching sessions. To ensure continuity and trust with the community and avoid loss of knowledge it is essential that the coaching sessions are provided by one of the trainers who facilitated the training.
- The coaching sessions should support key member/s of the natural resource / conflict management mechanism to address the priority issue identified during training.
- Coaching may be conducted online.

PILLAR TWO: CLIMATE ACTION POLICY AND DIALOGUE

5. Conduct 1 thematic dialogue session, in person.

- The Organization should conduct 1 thematic dialogue session, which engages community leaders and members who were involved in Pillar One activities and be inclusive of youth and women.
- The objective of the dialogue session is to foster understanding, collaboration, and proactive community-based solutions. Community perspectives and recommendations will inform IOM's ongoing work in climate security.
- Supplementary online thematic dialogue sessions are encouraged, if possible.

6. Facilitate 2 roundtables, focused on knowledge exchange and policy dialogue.

- The Organization should conduct 2 roundtables to facilitate knowledge exchange and networking between researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and other stakeholders on the topic of climate security. The roundtables may take place in person (in Baghdad and Erbil, for instance) or online.
- The roundtables should focus on national and sub-national opportunities for policy action. Discussions should promote inclusive dialogue and contribute to evidence-based policy development.
- There is no need to prepare a formal policy brief with the roundtables. The district profiles may be used as a resource, if relevant.

7. Develop a Guidance Note on climate mediation for communities and local authorities.

- IOM has developed two resources on localized peacebuilding: the *Local Peace Processes Toolkit*, and the *Climate Mediation Handbook*. Using these two resources as the foundation, the Organization should prepare a short Guidance Note (10 – 15 pages) that reflects on ‘lessons learned’ related to climate-related mediation in Iraq.
- The Guidance Note should draw on the experiences of this project as well as the Organization’s previous experiences. It does not need to provide a comprehensive global review of climate mediation practices, but rather should reflect on existing guidance and experiences in Iraq. This deliverable aims to create a resource for communities and local authorities who are engaged in mediation on climate-related issues in Iraq.

Reporting Mechanisms

1. Inception Report

- Within one week of contract signature, the Organization should submit an inception report, confirming locations, dates, and methodological approaches pertaining to the project.

2. Interim Project Report

- The Organization should submit an interim project report 10 weeks after contract signature, which summarizes progress made on all deliverables.

3. Final Project Report

- The Organization should submit a final project report at the end of the project, summarizing all activities, outcomes, and lessons learned.