

**Preliminary Capacity-Development Workshop On:
Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees in Iraq and the Requirements of the 2030
Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**21-23 February 2017
UN House, Beirut**

From the early 1970s to the present, Iraq witnessed several internal and external armed conflicts. This political instability has adversely impacted the structure of the state by threatening the legitimacy of its institutions and damaging the social fabric and national economy. Thus, Iraq is facing a fundamental challenge in its ability to lay down a solid national development plan. Currently, the issue of the internally displaced persons is one of the major crises in Iraq due to the challenging impact it poses on the realization of the sustainable development goals in general, and on the reinforcement of social cohesion in particular.

Amidst the rise in tension and violence, and the several intertwining social and economic developments, refugees and internally displaced persons still embody an ongoing challenge to the Iraqi government.

This crisis of refugees and IDPs' exceeded the national level, and is currently one of the most fundamental humanitarian emergencies internationally. As a result, several international organizations and governments are working together to draft resolutions and policies to address the crisis and its impact on multifaceted levels. In accordance, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and primarily Sustainable Development Goal 16 offers the most appropriate objective upon which plans can be formulated to deal with issues of refugees, immigrants, and internally displaced persons.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is not imposed on sovereign governments, but it is a general framework directed to national policies. It contains precise related development principles and goals, which can be modified and adapted according to the different contexts and socio-political structures of every country. It can be modeled as an original national development plan, or to be including in the national policies.

Migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, and immigrants are not only the most vulnerable groups in terms of the basic needs such as food, shelter, and medical healthcare, but they are also among the most marginalized groups. They suffer from exclusion, discrimination, and oppression within their country of origin and in hosting countries and this ultimately poses a threat of fragmentation to the social fabric.

The analysis of the multiple causes behind the forced displacement of individuals will help to better identify the challenges and needs upon which we will come out with respective short term and durable solutions for both integration of IDPs in host communities, and envision the environment for their return to their original communities. This analysis and drafting process will rely on the provisions of Sustainable development Goal 16 (SDG 16) on good governance as guiding principles (“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”) as they provide the best approaches to understanding the causes and conditions of internal displacement.

This workshop comes in a timely manner to respond to the previous request submitted by the Iraqi government to UN-ESCWA on addressing the crisis of IDPs, and it will involve the entire relevant stakeholders from different ministries in Iraq who are working on the crisis response plan.

Objectives and Methodology:

This workshop aims to look at the manifold causes and response mechanisms set for internal displacement in Iraq by drawing up on the SDG 16 of the 2030 framework by:

- Understanding the different challenges and obstacles inherent to the refugee crisis, and assessing the requirements and conditions for an effective crisis response plan;
- Anticipating solutions and proposing recommendations to insure an effective integration mechanism for IDPs in the hosting communities and to work on creating enabling conditions for their return to their original communities when possible;
- Integrating a durable refugee crisis response plan into the Iraqi national sustainable development strategy;
- Following up on the development of a monitoring and evaluating plan for the national sustainable development strategy

This workshop will adopt a participatory approach which engages participants through thematic working groups and facilitated dialogue

Workshop Duration:

The period of this workshop is three full days, and it will take place on 21-23 February, 2017.

Detailed Agenda

Day I: Tuesday, 21 February 2017

09:00-09:30	Registration
09:30-10:00	Welcoming remarks and stating the objectives of workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Statement of the Government of Iraq;- Statement of ESCWA;- Presentation of the current cooperation between ESWCA-ECRI and the Iraqi Government on issues of governance and public administration (ESCWA)- Aim and objectives of the workshop (ESCWA).
10:00-11:30	First Session: Sustainable Development plans and the Issue of Refugees: <p>The aim of this session is to present and discuss the methodological and conceptual frameworks of the sustainable development plans, to show how they are interrelated with the refugees crisis, and to demonstrate the level of congruency between the requirements of the sustainable development and the response to the displacement challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the 2030 sustainable development Agenda, the interrelation among its dimensions, and how to adopt it as a conceptual framework in order to plan and draft policies related to the crises of refugees and internally displaced persons, with the emphasis on Goal 16 and its objectives.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussion.
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the major components of the national sustainable development plan 2018-2022 in Iraq: the major orientations and challenges on the Iraqi general macro level.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussion
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:30	Second Session: Response Plans to the Internally Displaced Persons in Iraq. <p>The aim of this session is to address the response plans to the internal displacement crisis proposed by the Iraqi Government, the UN and International Organizations. It also aims to understand these plans, and analyze the obstacles and challenges to their implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the suggested/implemented plans by the Iraqi Government to respond to the crisis of internal displaced persons in Iraq (Iraqi Ministry of Planning and stakeholder authorities).<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussion
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break
15:45-17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the suggested/implemented plans by the UN and International Organizations in their response to the crisis of internally displaced persons in Iraq (UNDP, UNHCR, UNOCHA)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussion

Day II: Wednesday, 22 February 2017

09:30-10:00	<p>Presenting the outcomes of Day I, identify the elements of discussion, and dividing working groups. The discussions aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addressing the general situation and the suggested plans to respond to the refugees crisis• Assessing the capability of the plans to respond to the requirements of the refugees' crisis and to the specificities of the situation in Iraq.• Identifying the strength and weak points, and the capabilities of the parties dealing with refugees' crisis.• Testing the level of compatibility with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Goal 16.• Proposing suggestions and recommendations to improve the drafted plans and precisely the Iraqi Sustainable Development plan in order to increase its chances to succeed in responding to the refugees' crisis.
10:00-11:30	<p>Third session: discussion by the workgroups about the major challenges and obstacles facing the Refugees crisis in Iraq and the different impacts of this crisis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the direct factors for the conflicts and crises in the region?• What are the major obstacles obscuring the integration of the refugees in the hosting community?• What are the major obstacles and challenges impeding the refugees from going back to the areas they abandoned?
11:30-11:45	<p>Coffee Break</p>
11:45-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are the political enticements and how are they reflecting the return of the refugees to their areas?• What is the impact of the refugees' crisis on: the social fragmentation that came as a result to the armed conflicts and terrorist actions, and on the social cohesion? And how it is affecting the capabilities of the central and local governments in dealing with the social diversity? <p>Discussing the outcomes of the workgroups about the obstacles and challenges</p>
13:00-14:00	<p>Lunch Break</p>
14:00-14:30	<p>Presentation of policy drafting processes in decentralized systems - Case of Refugees (ESCWA)</p>
14:30-15:30	<p>Fourth Session: working groups discussion about resolutions to solve the crisis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the role of the central and regional governments in drafting and applying the sustainable development policies dealing with the refugees' crisis?• Suggestions about efficient integration of the refugees in the hosting communities.• Suggestions to ensure a sustainable return to the refugees: the national and local policies.

15:30-15:45	Coffee Break
15:45-17:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the role of civil society organizations and local communities in responding to the refugees' crisis? • How refugees can empower the social fabric and strengthen the cooperation and solidarity with the people of the same country? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Programs for social recovery. ○ Empowering youth volunteering in responding to the refugees' crisis. ○ Empowering the role of women in responding to the refugees' crisis. <p>Stating the conclusions and discussing the solutions proposed</p>

Day III: Thursday, 23 February 2017

09:30-10:00	Readdressing the major outcomes of Day 2, identify the elements of discussion, and dividing working groups
10:00-10:30	<p>Presentation of sustainable successful models to resolve the crisis of the internally displaced people. (UN ESCWA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General discussion
10:30 - 11:30	<p>Fifth Session: discussion by the working groups on how to include the policies of integration in the National Development Plan for Iraq</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The symmetry of Goal 16 with the national priorities related to the internal displacement persons in Iraq: the possibility of drafting an Iraqi version of Goal 16. • Transforming the strategic and long-term gradual response plans of the IDPs into a major part of the Iraqi sustainable development agenda.
11:30-11:45	Coffee Break
11:45-13:00	<p>Stating the conclusions of the workgroups on the Goal 16.</p> <p>Stating the conclusions of the workgroups on the sustainable development plan.</p>
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
14:00-15:30	Carrying on the discussions of the workgroups, and identifying the major steps and applicable procedures.
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break
15:45-17:00	<p>Closing Session: the upcoming steps and cooperation between the Iraqi Ministry of Planning and UN-ESCWA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussion
