Information Management Capacity-Building and Technical Support to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR)

Context

Iraq is in the midst of an economic crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic - adding to the existing demands faced by the public sector after decades of bloodshed and political unrest. On the other hand, the private sector is still weak, with youth unemployment rate high at 13%. These factors, coupled with the lack of information, prevents the Iraqi government from adequately supporting the labor market.

The absence of consolidated and accurate data on job seekers and recruiting firms hampers governmental institutions, including MoLSA and MoHESR, from planning and implementing support strategies and adapting educational programs to market needs.

Without centralized data on job seekers and recruiters, public institutions struggle to establish and run market-driven assistance and training programs.

iMMAP Iraq

Through this project, iMMAP seeks to fill current information and capability gaps while assisting public authorities in adapting their strategies to enhance the private sector and the labor market - in return, improving prospects and opportunities for Iraqi youth.

iMMAP will partner with both Iraqi ministries — MoHESR and MoLSA — to develop and implement tailored, interactive online information systems to promote labor market efficiency and stimulate private sector growth. In tandem to these activities, iMMAP will train ministry staff in the areas of information management (IM), monitoring and evaluation (M&E), website development and maintenance.

Better Data, Better Decisions, Better Outcomes
**Online System:** iMMAP will develop interactive online systems for both ministries – two for MoLSA and one for MoHESR. The objective of these platforms will be to improve access to updated and evidence-based information on the status of the labor market for job seekers and businesses. In addition, it aims to support public institutions in designing and implementing impactful activities and policies to boost private sector outputs.

**Capacity Building:** iMMAP will train MoLSA and MoHESR staff on IM and M&E processes and best practices. The IM course is designed to help participants acquire qualitative and quantitative data, evaluate data sources as well as analyze and contextualize data effectively. The functionalities of the online platform will also be used throughout the training sessions to ensure participants fully understand and proficiently use the new platform.

In addition to developing plans and tools to monitor and assess project performance, MoHESR and MoLSA employees will be able to analyze and visualize M&E data in various forms to support decision-making and adapt their management processes.

Finally, iMMAP will assist both ministries to effectively and independently operate and maintain their platforms. iMMAP has conducted the first IM training for MoLSA in Excel advanced and SQL and planning to provide further training in the coming period.

**Post Assessment Survey:** The iMMAP team will support the GIZ Private Sector Development (PSD) project by analyzing the impact of project activities in southern Iraq. iMMAP will conduct two surveys targeting 4,000 project beneficiaries. The team has conducted 1,889 interviews out of a reached sample of 2,700 beneficiaries.

iMMAP will further conduct field visits to meet with PSD beneficiaries to gather 60 in-depth success stories. Individualized testimonies with images will be included. The iMMAP team will then produce two booklets of these success stories while distributing 100 copies of each.