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 conflict 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 aims to fill current information and capability gaps and assist public authorities in adapting their strategies to strengthen the private sector and labor market, thereby enhancing the prospects and opportunities for Iraqi youth.

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

Personnel

Number of personnel: 13

Better Data, Better Decisions, Better Outcomes
Digital Platforms: iMMAP is developing two ministry-specific digital platforms.

- MoLSA Platform: The tool provides a digital space where job seekers connect with the private sector, and the ministry has access to reliable data on the state of the labor market.

- MoHESR Platform: The tool allows fresh graduates to interact with their university Career Development Center (CDC) and access information on training and employment opportunities. It provides universities with updated information on fresh graduates, fostering the development of activities to boost their access to the labor market.

Capacity Building: To support the ministries in leveraging the data and information provided by the platforms, iMMAP is providing IM and M&E trainings, promoting evidence-based policy making. To sustain the platforms, iMMAP provides separate trainings on digital platform management and maintenance.

Training provided as of Q3 2022:

- Excel Advance: 6 women, 10 men
- SQL Intermediate: 3 women, 2 men
- Basic M&E: 6 women, 4 men

Post-assessment survey: In addition to the support provided to the MoHESR and the MoLSA, iMMAP is conducting impact surveys to inform GIZ Private Sector Development project. 1,889 project beneficiaries were interviewed during the first survey and 30 success stories brought to light in a dedicated report.