

# Iraq University Linkages Program

September 2013

Funded by the US Embassy in Baghdad  
Administered by IREX.



# IREX Iraq University Linkage Program- University Partnerships



The US Embassy funded Iraq University Linkage Program promotes higher education reform in Iraq by working with Iraqi faculty and administrators to strengthen university curricula, enhance and update teaching methods and technology, and improve career services for students.

Through the ULP, Iraqi universities become more engaged within the global community and catalyze social, political, and economic development in Iraq. Through capacity building activities within the ULP, Iraqi faculty become better equipped to conduct ongoing curriculum review while raising the standard of their curriculum to model internationally recognized accreditation standards.

Through each partnership in the Iraq University Linkages Program (ULP) IREX coaches faculty to develop new curricula, leads in-person and online capacity building trainings for faculty and university staff, and supports Iraqi institutions' progress toward global academic standards.

## University Partnerships

### Georgia State University & University of Baghdad



#### Departments:

- English
- College of Education
- College of Language
- College of Liberal Arts

### Michigan State University & University of Duhok



#### Departments:

- Biology
- Computer & Electrical Engineering
- English

### University of Missouri at Columbia & Technology University, Baghdad



#### Departments:

- Renewable Energy
- Industrial Engineering
- Nanotechnology
- Petroleum Engineering

"Career and guidance services for students are non-existent in Iraq. Students just don't know where to turn when marketing themselves for a job. It's so wonderful to take a step in the right direction."

University of  
Technology,  
Baghdad  
Career  
Center  
Director

## Iraq University Linkages Program supports sustainable higher education reform

career  
support



curriculum  
and faculty  
development

150

Number of US and  
Iraqi faculty who have  
collaborated to  
revise and strengthen  
curricula and syllabi  
at Iraqi universities

20

Iraqi universities  
and government  
institutions  
participating in  
management  
training

65

administrators  
received  
intensive  
leadership and  
management  
training

16

administrators will  
take part in  
management job  
shadowing programs  
in the US

administrative  
capacity building



english language  
training

"The program gave  
me the ability to  
be independent [...] I  
want to teach in  
my home university,  
and encourage the  
students of Iraq to  
take the same  
opportunities."



**IREX**  
Make a Better World

for more information:  
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Israa, Civil  
Engineering student,  
Kufa University

# Iraqi Agriculture

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- ▶ Varies by region
- ▶ 50-60 % of arable land under cultivation- not necessarily in Kurdistan.
- ▶ Total war effect on landscape
- ▶ Oil for Food
- ▶ Efforts since 2003- increase in agriculture production (fish farms, greenhouses, etc)
- ▶ Crops grown: Wheat, barley, chickpeas, lentils
- ▶ Kurdistan Ministry of Planning reports on Agriculture
- ▶ <http://www.mop-kr.org/index.jsp?sid=1&id=146&pid=105>



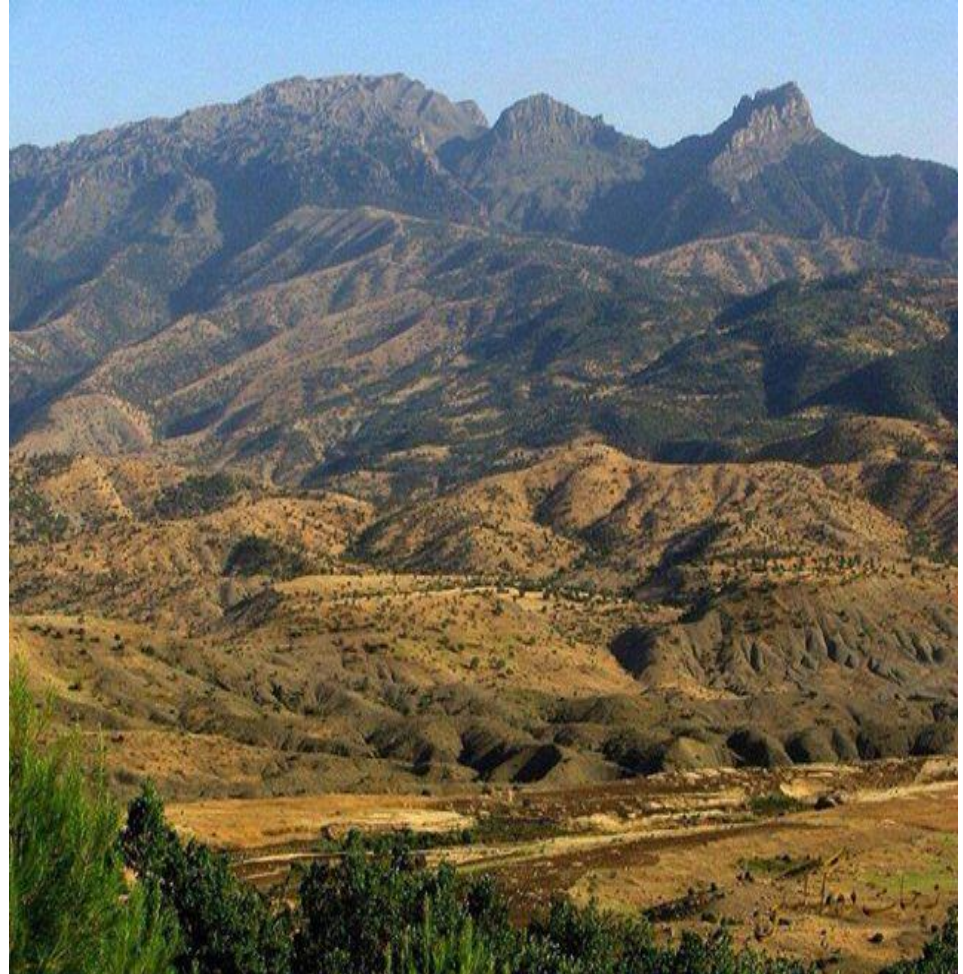


# Iraqi Agriculture:

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## Duhok University College of Agriculture

- ▶ College of Agriculture:  
40 % Male to 60 % Female
  - ▶ Agriculture is considered part of sciences; not as high an average required for entrance as some other hard sciences; ranked 4th
  - ▶ KRG offers loans to graduates for start up projects in agriculture
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2003/11/20





2003/10/09

# Iraq ULP Post-Conflict Considerations

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▶ August 28, 2013



- ▶ Situational analysis- is Iraq conflict or post conflict?
- ▶ “Do no harm”
- ▶ Know the context
- ▶ Determine levels of engagement in every area, local & international, government, etc.
- ▶ Education- neutral poses less threat
- ▶ Strategic Listening – input from stakeholders
- ▶ Keeping staff safe- determining mission critical
- ▶ Plan and contingency plan
- ▶ Branding



# The Do No Harm Framework

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Step 1: Understanding the context of conflict

Step 2: Analyze dividers and sources of tension

Step 3: Analyze connectors and Local Capacities for Peace

Step 4: Analyze – identify and unpack – the assistance project

Step 5: Analyze the assistance program's impact on the context of conflict through Resource Transfers and Implicit Ethical Messages

Step 6: Generate programming options

Step 7: Test options and redesign program



# Conflict Assessment Frameworks: Examples

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- ▶ U.S. Interagency Conflict Assessment Framework (ICAF)
- ▶ CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, The Do No Harm (DNH) Framework
- ▶ UNDP, “Conflict-Related Development Analysis”
- ▶ GTZ (Germany), “Conflict Analysis for Project Planning and Management”
- ▶ World Bank Conflict Assessment Framework
- ▶ DFID (UK), “Conducting Conflict Assessments”
- ▶ Netherlands Institute of International Relations, “Stability Assessment Framework”
- ▶ IREX resources- Conflict CoP



# Gender Considerations

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- ▶ Percentage of ULP female participants-
- ▶ Higher education vs. employment- discrepancy
- ▶ Determine what is culturally appropriate
- ▶ Communicate benefit (SELS)
- ▶ Program requirement
- ▶ Administrative support and push
- ▶ Cultural considerations when traveling

