



# Enhancing capacity in the Republic of Iraq on Migration and Border Management

IOM organizes Training of Trainers for Senior Officials of Directorates of Residency of Central Government and Kurdistan Regional Government

**10 – 21 November** – IOM Iraq organized a combined Training of Trainers (ToT) in Sulaimaniyah, Iraq, to strengthen capacities of the Iraqi Immigration Service (Directorate of Residency) and promote understanding and coordination at various levels within the Ministry of Interior of the Central Government of Iraq and Kurdistan Regional Government. The training was organized by the HIJRA AMINA ('safe migration' in Arabic) programme team in Sulaimaniyah, Iraq, under the framework of the programme funded by the EU.

The training, comprised:

1. Two ToT courses on Training Techniques delivered to 38 officials;
2. One ToT course on Advanced Passport Examination Procedures, delivered by the IBM RTS Donato Colucci to 20 officials; and
3. One ToT course on Migration and Border Management delivered by Alvina Samjawon, HIJRA AMINA Programme Manager to 19 officials.

The outcome of the ToT courses will be the rolling-out of trainings by the GoI and KRG trainers to border guards under the aegis of Immigration Training Centres (ITCs), which have been set up by IOM under previous capacity building in migration management projects in Iraq.

Both training sessions on Advanced Passport Examination and Migration and Border Management followed a highly interactive structure that included breakout sessions, short plenary presentations, simulation activities, trainee presentations and self-evaluation. Through this structure, trainees were able to access the learning outcomes in an engaging manner as well as further familiarize themselves with multiple types of training methodologies for future use in their role as trainers.



Training participants © IOM 2013

The trainings' methodology followed principles of adult learning and ensured that officers applied newly acquired theoretical knowledge to practical examples based on real situations that the trainees are likely to encounter while delivering their trainings. Role playing exercises were also widely used whereby in one instance, a trainee played the role of a duty officer while other participants were travelers, which confronted trainees with some concrete challenges of facial recognition at an airport. In another instance, trainees simulated challenging situations for clearing travelers at the border post which generated debates on uniformity of procedures.

By the end of the training, participants were fully familiarized with international best practices, and how best to adapt these to the Iraqi context, and the most appropriate, modern tools, such as the use of UV magnifying lamps to support passport examination. In addition, participants followed a one day introduction to communication and negotiation skills to further enhance their skills as trainers required when interacting with trainees.

The training session on Migration and Border Management endowed officers with knowledge and understanding of

migration and border management challenges particularly in light of new trends in Iraq such as foreign labour, the return of qualified nationals, and new employment schemes for IDPs and returnees.

Participants expressed much enthusiasm for the training: *"The interactive approach of this ToT has given me a unique chance to enhance my knowledge and skills in passport examination procedures and is by far the best I have received"*, Colonel Haider, Manager Immigration Training Centre, Baghdad.

As a result of the training, all the participants were comfortable with using newly-acquired terminology associated with assessing passports and presenting the results to an audience and with evaluating the different migration trends and typologies within their context.

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