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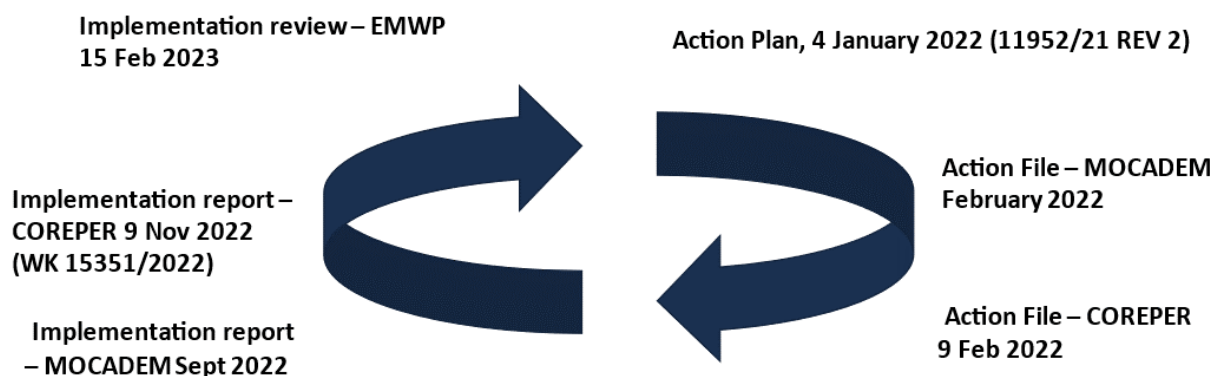
NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP)
Subject: Operationalisation of the Pact – Follow-up on the implementation of the
Action Plan on Iraq
- Presentation by the Presidency

Delegations will find attached the implementation review of the Action Plan for Iraq prepared by the Presidency.

Implementation review Iraq (360-degree approach)

The 360 degree cycle - Iraq



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The implementation review document presents an overview of existing goals, objectives and state of play included in the Action Plan, Action file and Implementation report, as well as an update on the current funding situation related to Iraq. Together with the Implementation report, it serves as a background for the discussion in EMWP.

The Action Plan for Iraq was last updated on 4 January 2022 (11952/2/21 REV 2).

Action Plan – summary

Goals for managing migration and address forced displacement

- Protection and Forced displacement: continue supporting sustainable solutions for the reintegration of Internally Displaced Persons into the Iraqi society.
- Root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement: address root causes of instability, fragility, irregular migration, protracted displacement and conflict through all relevant policies, instruments, and funds.
- Migration governance and management: cooperation to help resolve the situation at the EU-Belarus border, tackling the smuggling networks, information and awareness raising campaigns, supports Iraq's efforts on migration management, dialogue with Iraq to promote returns and prevent irregular migration.
- Return, readmission, reintegration: ensure Iraq's acceptance of notably non-voluntary return of Iraqi irregular migrants, support the sustainable reintegration of the returnees in Iraq, strengthen Iraq's capacity to better respond to readmission applications, provide opportunities for safe voluntary return, readmission and sustainable reintegration.
- Whole of route/regional cooperation: encourage active involvement by Iraq in regional cooperation on migration, including Budapest process, including border management, migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings.

Main measures

- EU–Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (2018) and EU Strategy for Iraq (2018)
- EU-Iraq political dialogue/engagement, as well as informal migration dialogue
- A wide range of policy tools: development cooperation, security, visa, trade, agriculture etc.
- European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM Iraq)
- Art. 25a of the Visa Code (continuous engagement and proposal for measures)
- Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027: NDICI-Global Europe through Multiannual Indicative Programmes at country and regional level, FPI funding, HOME funding.

- Team Europe Initiative (TEI): sustainable and inclusive socio-economic perspectives for Iraq
- Member States' bilateral engagement
- Member States' legal migration and mobility programmes
- Measures to address the strategic deficiencies in the AML/CFT regime

As a result of the EMWP discussion on 11 January 2022, the French presidency published an Operational Summary document (WK 810/2022 REV 1) highlighting three main priorities for implementation.

EMWP operational summary – main priorities

- Forced and voluntary returns including reintegration assistance and sustainable reintegration of Iraqi nationals in an irregular situation in Europe
- Border management and the fight against migrant smuggling and human trafficking
- Stabilize the country in light of the democratic, economic, and root causes of irregular migration challenges

MOCADEM finalized an Action File for Iraq in February 2022.

Action File – specific objectives

Reinforce relations with Iraqi authorities/government, on migration issues in order to notably:

- Lift the Iraqi authorities' opposition in principle to the execution of all return decisions to Iraq.
- Establish smooth cooperation on the readmission of Iraqi nationals in an irregular situation.
- Integrate return, readmission and reintegration into broader cooperation on migration.

Action Plan – goals for managing migration and address forced displacement	Action File – actions
(General outreach)	Political and technical outreach: actions 1-3
Protection and forced displacement	Other targeted measures: action 9 (reception of Syrian refugees and Iraqi IDPs)
Root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement	Other targeted measures: action 9 (root causes of irregular migration)
Migration governance and management	Other targeted measures: action 9 (Iraq’s migration strategy, anti-smuggling, anti-trafficking in human beings)
Return, readmission, reintegration	Political and technical outreach: actions 1-2 Support measures for return and reintegration: actions 4-8 Other targeted measures: action 9 (reintegration) Use of the visa lever and other levers: action 10
Whole of route/regional cooperation	

The implementation report from MOCADDEM (WK 15351/2022) was approved by COREPER on 9 November 2022, providing a summary of progress made at that stage.

In EMWP on 7 Nov 2022, there was an update on the implementation of the action plan and cooperation with Iraq. Positive signs of new Iraqi government’s availability for dialogue. However, in November it was too early to assess prospects for progress. Difficulties with returns remained. Need for a common European approach.

On 22 January 2023, the Government of Iraq formed a Committee on migration. The Committee will be chaired by the Minister of Migration and the Displaced. With this positive development having now a designated interlocutor within the Iraqi Government it is timely to reinvigorate dialogue.

Financing (Member States' funding not included)

Ongoing

- **Awda Amina – Safe Return- Reintegration and recovery assistance in areas of return in Iraq, EUR 9 million.** Following the Belarus crisis, INTPA has amended and allocated additional EUR 3 million to the ongoing **Awda Amina** bilateral project with IOM to support Iraqi authorities on organising medium-to long-term sustainable reintegration of returnees and to prioritise ongoing activities towards needs linked to the Belarus crisis.
- **DG HOME started as from December 2022 a new *Communication and awareness raising campaign*, EUR 1 million.** The aim is to dissuade Iraqis to take the perilous journeys, while informing them factually on the hardships encountered at the border and is developed along two axes: (1) a strategic communication campaign co-designed with Government of Iraq and (2) capacity building of Government of Iraq to better communicate on migration via the inter-ministerial Technical Working Group. This targeted campaign will build up on and coordinate efforts with the ICMPD-built Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) Iraq Information Campaign. This project will integrate with other key projects implemented by IOM Iraq, notably the assessments on migration governance completed under the project SAFE Return and Reintegration 'Awda Amina'.
- **Integrated Border Management in the Silk Routes Countries, EUR 12 million.** The project supports the countries of the Silk Routes region (AFG, PAK, BGD, Iran, IQ) in building more effective and efficient border management systems. For this, it uses the European Integrated Border Management concept, while adapting it to the specific situations and realities of partner Silk Routes countries. A no-cost extension of 2 years was signed with ICMPD in December 2022 to prolong the contract until December 2024.

- **GloACT Asia and the Middle East** (overall EU contribution EUR 12 million). This regional project aims at establishing more effective national and international responses to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants with full respect for human rights. The project started in December 2018 and is implemented in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan. A follow-up phase which includes Iraq (“PROTECT – Improving migration management and migrant protection along selected Silk Route countries”) has been approved by the NDICI Committee in November 2022 and contracting is ongoing.

Upcoming

- **Upcoming contracts under Annual Action Programme 2021 (country MIP):** will focus holistically on displaced communities, such as internally displaced people, returnees and Syrian refugees hosted in Iraq, and through its horizontal and sustainable system-building approach will also benefit the generality of people in Iraq. It will promote education, social protection, civil identification and the creation and access to skills and jobs.
- **Upcoming contracts under Annual Action Programme 2022 (Regional MIP):** will support the sustainable and dignified (re)integration of returnees and displaced populations, as well as addressing root causes of fragility and displacement among vulnerable segments of people in Iraq through strengthened national systems linked to migration governance reforms with a focus on national referral systems, provision of decent job and entrepreneurship opportunities, and VET reforms for the provision of skills demanded by the labour market. (EU contribution EUR 20 million, funded under the flexible incitative approach foreseen by the Asia Pacific RIP).
- Upcoming regional support under AAP22 through UNODC on fighting against migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings (continuation of ongoing GloACT project) within the framework of the project “PROTECT – Improving migration management and migrant protection along selected Silk Route countries” (overall EU contribution EUR 9 million).