

SDLG Iraq Results 2024 Building Resilient Local Authorities

Factsheet



Iraq hosts one of the largest displaced populations in the region, the majority of whom live in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). This concentration of displaced people, alongside host communities, places immense pressure on local administrations and their ability to provide basic services.

At the same time, a prolonged financial crisis in the KRI, declining funding from UN agencies and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), and insufficient support from the Federal Government of Iraq have further undermined municipal capacities. The combination of rising demands and shrinking resources has widened service gaps and left both host and displaced communities vulnerable.

The Sustainable Development through improved Local Governance (SDLG) Iraq programme aims to make local authorities more resilient to deal with displaced communities, and provide better services to host and displaced communities in our target area. Our approach includes modernizing local administrations, improving public services, and promoting constructive communication and increased engagement between governments and citizens.

SDLG Iraq is part of the larger SDLG Programme

which strengthens local governance in 14 countries. SDLG is implemented by VNG International, the international cooperation agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities, and financed by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Deliverables in 2024

25 awareness campaigns on use of water and waste segregation/recycling

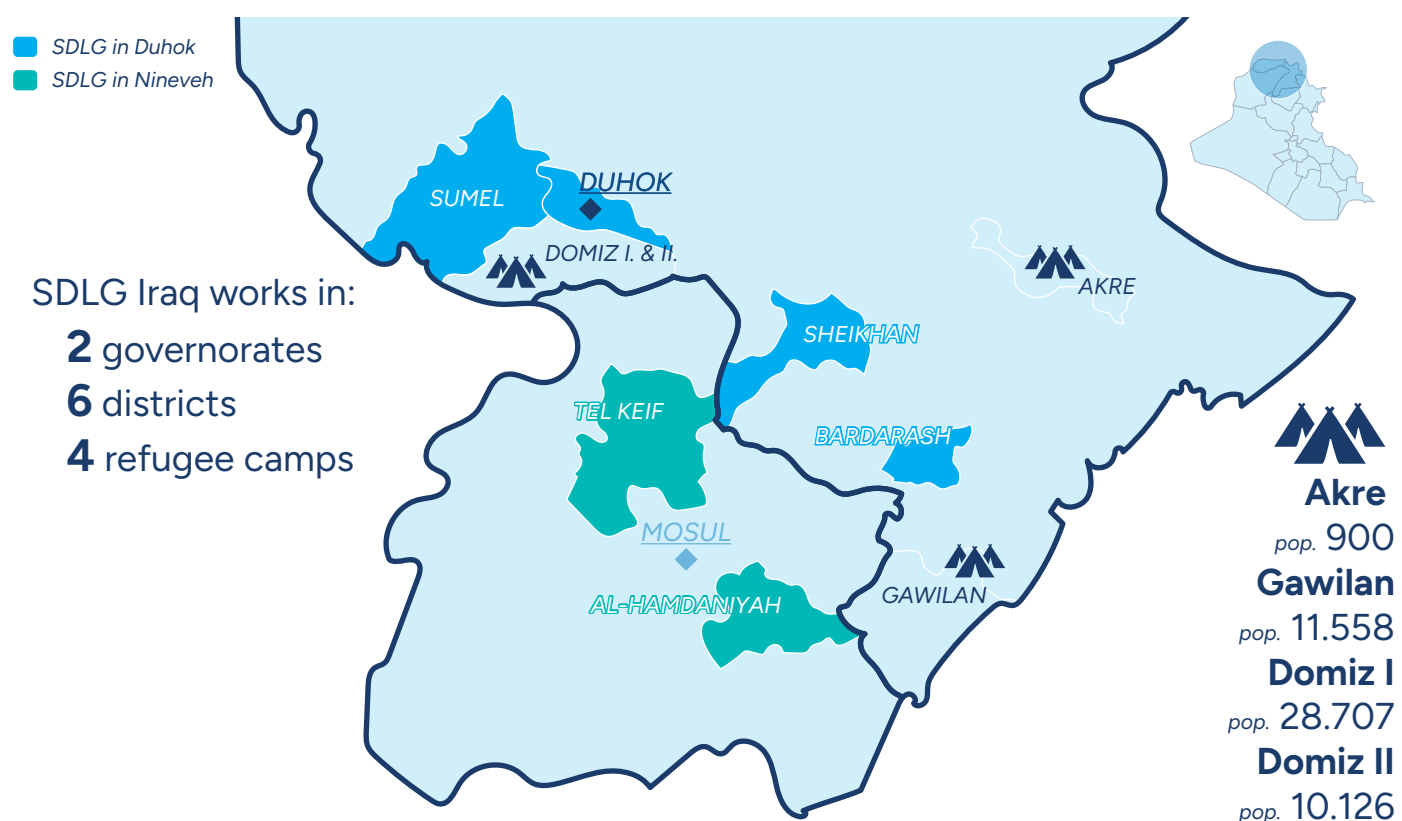
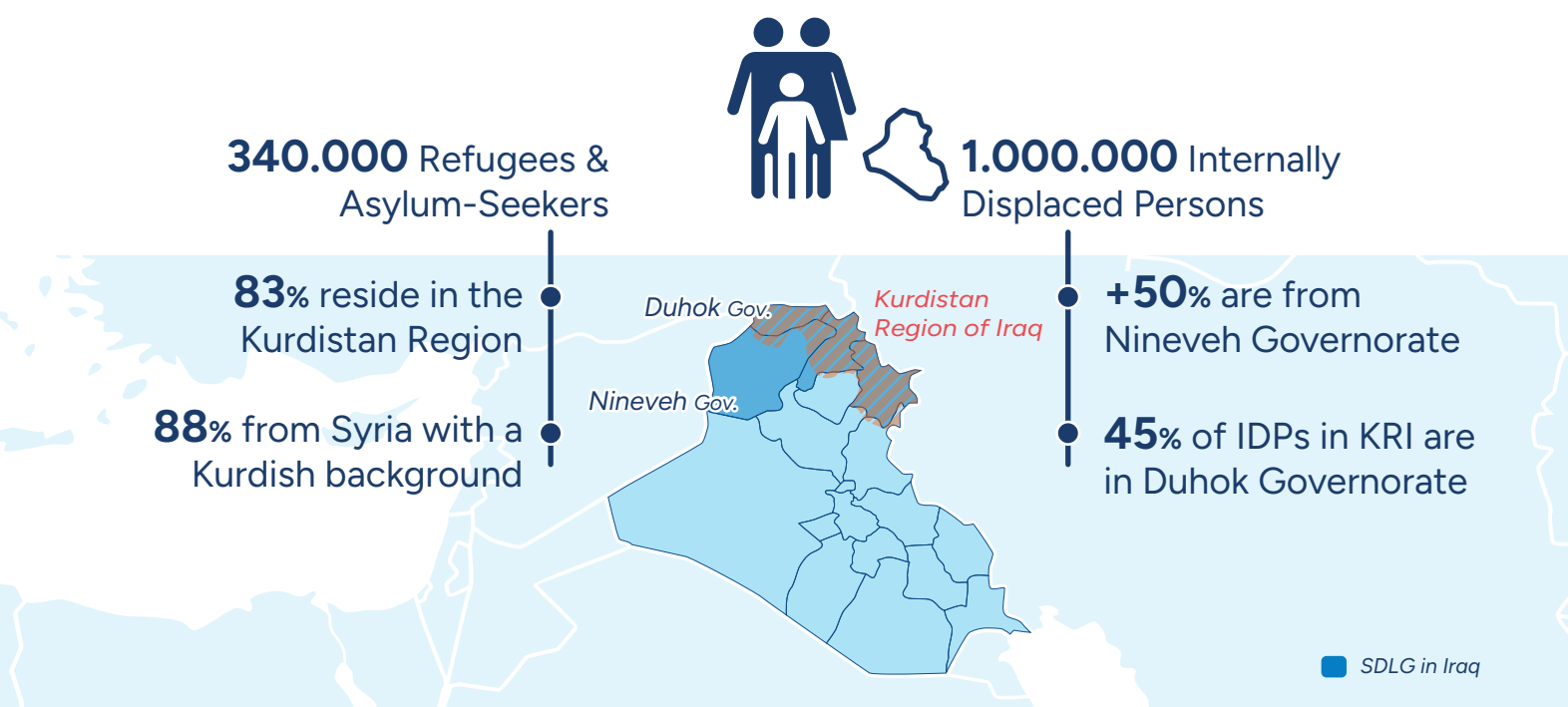
8 training courses (including leadership, business management, ArcGIS), a total of 125 individuals trained

7 workshops (including waste legislation, waste management, modernization working group)

1 conference on Local Economic Development

Picture: Director of VNG International Pieter Jeroense, Mayor Carol van Eert and Mayor Haval Mohammedsherif open newly renovated Kalakche Library in Al-Hamdaniyah district, part of the citizen engagement grants and community priorities. October 2024. Photo credits: Ameer Sabri.

Iraq hosts a substantial number of displaced persons



SDLG Iraq supports local authorities by strengthening:



Institutions
by clarifying the role & mandate of local governments



Individuals
By developing leadership & citizenship



Organisations
By improving local government decision-making processes, policies & services

What SDLG Iraq achieved in 2024

Kurdistan Region in Iraq

- **8 proposals** approved by the Working Group on Modernizing Local Administrations in Erbil, enabling quicker local-level decisions on leave approvals, contracts, budgets, and land use.
- Camp Transformation Steering Committee established in Duhok, with **1 pilot project improving water services** near Domiz II refugee camp.
- Partnership with the Dutch municipality of Rheden led to a Sustainable Development Board based on a '**triple helix model**', a cooperation between Duhok University, the Chamber of Commerce and the Mayoralty of Duhok.
- **1 assessment on water management practices** produced to guide sustainable systems in Duhok.
- With UNHCR, **1 compost unit** established at Kwashe Treatment Plant.
- **14 civil servants from 10 directorates trained on participatory service delivery** by the Hague Academy.
- **15 solid waste awareness campaigns** (Akre, Sheikhhan, Bardarash) promoting recycling and reduced landfill use.
- **10 school-based water campaigns** (Duhok, Sumel, Sheikhhan) promoting efficient use.
- **6 small grants in Sheikhhan** funded community priorities: renovating a school, renovating a library and computer classroom, agricultural equipment, a women-led bakery, and beekeeping for honey production.



Beekeepers with honeyboxes in Sheikhhan district. Photo credits: Nabaa Lawin.

Nineveh Governorate

- In Al-Hamdaniyah, **18 young returnees rehabilitated Peace Park and planted 3,500 trees**, in addition to establishing a tree nursery, expecting to generate revenue in the future.
- **22 civil servants trained on leadership dilemmas**, strengthening their role in service delivery.

Netherlands

In November 2024, **14 Iraqi stakeholders joined a study visit to the Netherlands**, exchanging knowledge on water governance, intergovernmental cooperation, leadership, citizen engagement, LED, waste management, and tourism.



IDP graduates show their certificate upon finalising a course in general computer skills, Microsoft Office applications and guidance on how to search and apply for jobs. Photo credits: Barzani Charity Foundation.



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Nederlandse Gemeenten**

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