

Towards comprehensive reintegration support in northern Iraq

Policy recommendations to the German government

Authors: Elke Grawert & Katja Mielke (BICC), Stefan Pleisnitzer, Sarah Markiewicz, Ahmed Rifat (MI), Ahmed M. Abdou (Dohuk University)

Creating the structural preconditions for re-establishing lives after return

- **Put pressure on the Government of Iraq to implement Article 140 of the Constitution (permanent resolution of disputed territories)**

The unresolved status of the disputed territories has continuously caused violent conflicts between a large number of armed groups including the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levante (ISIL). In 2020 attacks by ISIL doubled compared to 2018.

The German government (within the European Union) should put pressure on the Government of Iraq (GoI) and the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) to develop a roadmap towards the resolution of the disputed areas. Safety will be the pre-condition for the return of displaced people.

... structural preconditions for re-establishing lives after return (ctd.)

- **Put a roadmap for a new process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants in the disputed territories high on the political dialogue agenda**

The GFFO, within the EU, should intensify the political dialogue with both the GoI and the KRG to re-establish a DDR programme in the disputed territories. Along with pressure towards the implementation of Article 140 the GFFO together with EU partners should insist that the GoI takes the lead in developing and implementing a DDR programme in close collaboration with the KRG.

Such a programme can support consolidation of security and contribute to create the security environment necessary for return and reintegration.

... structural preconditions for re-establishing lives after return (ctd.)

- Offer technical advice and support steps taken by the Government of Iraq towards clarifying the procedures of the electoral law

As Iraq is no longer an emergency country, the BMZ should make monetary transfers conditional and shift the emphasis of bilateral development aid towards the export of expertise instead of funding direct assistance.

German advice in e-government and administrative set-up can contribute to reduce corruption and develop the basis for decentralization (implementing Law 21) in the long run. Against this backdrop, improved governance will be at the root to legally clarify property and land disputes many returning IDPs are struggling with.

Needs for reintegration: political dialogue and operational levels

- **Advise and support the GoI in efforts to provide basic services, fair trials and institutionalized compensation measures**

Regular provision of functioning basic services like electricity, water supply and basic infrastructure is a prerequisite for re-establishing conditions for return and reintegration of displaced people.

According to varying contexts, the needs of IDPs can be closely linked with livelihood support and compensation in the framework of long-term reconciliation and peacebuilding measures. The BMZ should engage in bilateral dialogues with the GoI to alleviate access and support experienced NGOs in setting-up these processes.

Needs for reintegration: political dialogue and operational levels

- **Advise and support the GoI in its comprehensive economic reform efforts**

German partners in development cooperation should advocate to the GoI and the KRG authorities to establish a working coordination mechanism in terms of programming economic support for returnees (including receiving communities) to replace scattered small-scale funding of individuals.

A shift from short term to sustainable measures such as access to business counselling also in agriculture are required.