



Funded by:



YOUTH-ORIENTED INNOVATIVE EMPLOYMENT AND LIVELIHOODS TOWARDS DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR IDPs, HOST COMMUNITIES AND SYRIAN REFUGEES IN IRAQ (YIELDS)



FACT SHEET FOR THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MERCY CORPS, IRAQ AND RDPP

Duration: 2019 - 2021

Budget: 2,241,584 EUR

Geographical area: Governorates of Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, Iraq

RDPP thematic area: Livelihoods

Implementing partner: KEDO, YAO, Re:Coded

Direct Beneficiaries:

- 600 Syrian refugees and 200 Iraqi youth (ages 18-30)
- 40 private sector companies
- 4 Technical Vocational and Education Training CBOs (TVETs)

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The project's overall goal is to enhance women and youth participants' self-reliance through an enabling environment that provides decent and sustainable livelihood opportunities, adapted to their circumstances, and that supports access to durable solutions.

Through this project, Mercy Corps will provide three livelihoods tracks for youth:

I. Technology-enabled employment

Mercy Corps is working with Erbil-based training center 'Re:Coded' to build awareness on the technology and start-up ecosystem and develop foundational skills. Re:Coded will host 10 workshops on coding, app and game development, reaching 300 youth who express interest in technology and entrepreneurship. Participants who show an aptitude for coding will be encouraged to apply for the Coding Bootcamp where 20 youth will be selected to participate in a 12-week coding bootcamp that teaches web development and provides professional training. To allow for continued engagement with the community, the project will host events matching potential employers with leaders from Iraqi business and technology start-up ecosystems, reaching an additional 200 youth who express interest in these topics but were not chosen for the camp. Mercy Corps will also support skilled digital freelancers to excel in the economy through identifying 10 successful

freelancers to serve as mentors based on their technical skills and leadership capabilities.

I. Medium and Small Enterprise (MSME) Support

The project provides 120 interested MSME participants with assessments on key gaps in the market, coach them to develop business ideas and plans and provide 60 participants with vouchers for vetted Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions. Based on the plans, 60 selected grantees will be provided with start-up resources, including toolkits, and 60 participants will be provided with grants. All participants will be invited to participate in a forum with financial service providers to discuss long-term relationships, sound financial management and explore possibilities for technology-based financial services, such as mobile banking, etc.

III. Jobs and Internship Placement

Mercy Corps aims to place 130 interns with companies based on their fields and 40 competitively selected participants into job placements, with a preference to women who are main income-earners. The project also link interested companies and interns through fairs where companies share information on their business and interns present their qualifications in order to facilitate the internship placement.

Private sector and CBOs Capacity Building

Mercy Corps will develop a Shared-Value Partnership (SVP) with 40 private sector companies to strengthen their positions to hire additional employees. This approach entails developing a specific tool to assess companies' HR policies, financial, health, reputation and safety regulations to evaluate partnership potential and interest in a long-term commitment. With Mercy Corps' support and close monitoring, engaged companies will be selected to participate in strategy sessions that can address prioritised actions through detailed Scopes of Work (SOWs). For larger companies interested in hiring participants through the SVP, Mercy Corps will conduct events to gauge businesses' interest and readiness for a private sector engagement intervention before identifying employment opportunities. The project also aims on improving institutional capacities of local partner CBOs to implement and manage livelihood programming that will contribute to job creation, including the activation of two hubs, as well as TVETs to develop business models.

