

***Reimbursable Advisory Services Agreement between Kurdistan Region of Iraq
and the
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank)***

The Kurdistan Regional Government and the World Bank Group join efforts in developing a new Social Protection Strategic Framework

As part of a Reimbursable Advisory Service Agreement (RAS) signed between the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and the World Bank Group, the Ministry of Planning (KRG) and the World Bank are joining efforts to develop the KRG Social Protection Strategic Framework (SPSF), under a Technical Cooperation Program which was launched in Erbil in January 2015. Based on KRG's Vision 2020, the Technical Cooperation Program aims at establishing a solid framework for social protection policies and programs that would enhance the living conditions of KRG's population, through reducing vulnerabilities and providing equal opportunities, and particularly through strengthening the element of resilience against shocks. The Technical Cooperation Program comprises four phases, detailed as follows:

- 1- **Assessment:** The first phase includes three main activities (a) Stock taking and data collection of current programs and implementation arrangements, (b) Updating benchmarking, including quantitative and qualitative assessment to measure the effectiveness and the impact of existing social protection schemes on vulnerability and inequality related to good practices in other countries, (c) Identification of policy options for reform, simulation and estimation of the financing options, sustainability, tradeoffs among these options, and a roadmap for reform.
- 2- **Consultations:** This phase consists of a series of high-level roundtables, workshops, and discussions with key relevant stakeholders and partners aiming at grounding the policy options and providing a better understanding of the political economy and feasibility for implementation of the reforms as applicable for KRG.
- 3- **Development of the KRG Social Protection Strategic Framework:** The Strategic Framework includes: targeting, coverage, cost effectiveness, monitoring and impact evaluation, as well as setting policy recommendations that will better align the institutional, technical, and financial resources of KRG, to expand and better target its services in social safety nets, social insurance and labor market programs.
- 4- **Dissemination:** The Technical Cooperation Program includes support in the development of a communication strategy and outreach in order to: (a) increase awareness among key stakeholders of the dynamics that underpin the SPSF, (b) lay the groundwork for implementation of these and other potential changes in social protection programs to proceed in a strategic and coordinated manner, and (c) build support for the necessary changes among key stakeholders.

The KRG Social Protection Framework would serve as a tool for the KRG government to meet the demands of the people in the areas of health, social insurance, social safety nets and the provision of job opportunities. The final completion of the SPSF is expected in April 2016.



Timeframe: January 1st, 2015 - April 30, 2016.

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