



POVERTY ALLEVIATION FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES IN IRAQ

BY POVERTY ALLEVIATION
COALITION

February 2021



Project Summary



Total Programme Value
USD 11,450,000

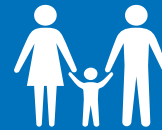


Cost per household
USD 2,290



Methodology

The Graduation Approach



Target Beneficiaries

Households 5,000



UNHCR
MPCA +Facilitation



GOAL
Implementation



WORLD VISION
Implementation



DRC
Implementation



NRC
Implementation

Contents

Contents	3
Background	4
Project Operating Model	5
Project Goal	5
Project objectives	5
Graduation Approach	7
Project Management and Governance	11
Coalition Organisational Capacity	11
Broader Project Stakeholders	11
Project Impact and Sustainability	12
Intended Impact	12
Sustainability and Exit Strategy	12
Monitoring and Evaluation	14
Project Budget	15

On the cover:

Iraq. Syrian seamstress builds brand loyalty from a refugee camp

Date 19/07/2019

Country Iraq

Credit Line © UNHCR/Firas Al-Khateeb

Description Widowed mother-of-seven turns former pastime into a thriving business in Iraq's Domiz refugee camp, with some clients sending orders from as far afield as Europe

ID Number RF2250208

City Dohuk

Sublocation Domiz Refugee Camp

Background

Despite being a middle-income country, Iraq continues to have persistently high levels of poverty, often exacerbated by continued waves of displacement. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty among displacement affected population groups in the country was twice as high compared with the rest of the population. Following the pandemic, it is estimated that overall poverty in Iraq increased up to 31.8%, compared with 20 percent in 2018 (UNICEF and The World Bank, 2020). Among displacement affected population groups who have remained part of a protracted crisis context in Iraq and continue to be constrained in their ability to access specialized care or basic services, poverty is expected to be even higher (The World Bank, 2018). The protracted vulnerability of such populations demands a longer-term poverty alleviation effort that reduces their vulnerabilities and facilitates their transition to self-reliance.

Most of the Iraqi refugee population continues to be in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, where the protection environment for them has largely remained stable. Yet, the lack of a legal framework for refugees in the country continues to constrain possibilities for them, especially for the most vulnerable (UNHCR, 2020). With limited opportunities in a country that is already facing a multitude of crises, refugees as well as their host communities are highly vulnerable to falling into poverty traps. The lack of a legally established status also means that refugees are unlikely to benefit from various social security schemes, including those targeting people affected by displacement and alleviating poverty.

With the Iraqi economy under continued duress due to declining oil prices, political instability, and the region's volatile security conditions, resources have spread thin, affecting the refugee and host population in equal measure (The World Bank, 2020).

Among refugees, as with a large proportion of the local population, the lack of livelihood opportunities continues to be a major grievance, making them highly susceptible to impacts of economic shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic (Cuevas, Malaeb, & Wai-Poi, 2020). For several vulnerable people among refugee and host populations, humanitarian assistance continues to be the only, and in some cases, the most crucial kind of support available to prevent acute deprivation. On a longer-term, however, reducing vulnerabilities among such populations in Iraq would require creating distinct opportunities for them through which they can increasingly become self-reliant.

The graduation approach aims at improving the lives of the poor and most vulnerable population groups through provision of basic support and investments in sustainable livelihoods for them. Shown to have generally positive results, the approach is based on giving a sense of security to poor and vulnerable households about their immediate basic needs (such as adequate food consumption) so that they are able to focus on things that, over a period of time, enable them to acquire skills and resources to have sustainable livelihoods. This way, the approach helps poor households 'graduate' from being unable to meet their basic needs into being able to generate and sustain livelihoods for themselves on their own.

The Poverty Alleviation Coalition in Iraq aims to contribute to the SDGs and will work together to improve prospects of social mobility among vulnerable displacement affected households in Iraq through an integrated graduation approach, that includes provision of support to vulnerable households through a social safety net (to meet their basic needs), skills and asset transfers, and livelihoods support through regular mentoring and training.

Project Operating Model

Project Goal

5,000 poor households consisting of refugees, IDPs and vulnerable host community members transition from poverty and achieve sustainable livelihoods in Duhok, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates in KR-I between by 2020 and 2024.

Project objectives



Outcome 1: Income, food security and savings increased



Outcome 2: Access to basic and social services increased, including national institutions



Outcome 3: Enhance the social development and social inclusion of targeted poor households.

About Iraq PAC: Expertise and Capacity Coalition Partners

The Poverty Alleviation Coalition Iraq consists of Danish Refugee Council (DRC), GOAL, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), UNHCR and World Vision (WV) who all bring their own expertise and experience to the table to implement a Graduation Approach in Iraq to achieve the above-mentioned goals and objectives. The Coalition will develop referral mechanisms, informed by the five stages of the graduation approach and the experience of each partner, their presence in the identified locations, leveraging of other existing programs from other funding sources and mutual agreement. The PAC partners will coordinate and develop information-sharing mechanisms to avoid (geographical) overlap.

DRC

DRC's vision in Iraq is to improve safety, dignity, and resilience by facilitating the transition from meeting basic needs to sustainable solutions for individuals and communities affected by conflict and displacement. DRC has been supporting IDPs, refugees, and vulnerable host communities in the country since 2003, which has enabled us to model and adapt programming to meet identified needs effectively, while simultaneously maintaining our

commitment to the core humanitarian principles of respect for equal rights, humanity, independence, neutrality, impartiality, and transparency.

DRC's comparative advantage in economic recovery programming includes:

- Experience implementing economic recovery programming from basic needs assistance to sustainable livelihoods. This has allowed DRC to build a close network of partners, including both non-governmental organizations and national stakeholders.
- Recognized as a major provider of emergency cash transfers to address immediate needs and can build on this expertise to increase Populations of Concern's access to appropriate financial products and services.
- Unique access to the extremely vulnerable and marginalized households through integrated programming, and the capacity to address their needs through multi-sectorial and complementary interventions;
- Significant experience in different intervention models on wage employment, including direct support with a case management approach;
- Experience supporting micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) in many different countries

and contexts, from business development services to direct and indirect financial support;

- Extensive understanding of the legal framework applicable to displacement-affected populations, including the right to work and access to decent job opportunities

GOAL

GOAL's objective is to ensure that people survive crises, have a resilient health, food and nutrition security and sustainable livelihoods. GOAL uses a market systems approach when assisting people in recovering from crises. This approach incorporates resilience, age and gender inclusion and behaviours, and uses modalities such as cash to support recovery and protect existing markets.

In response to years of conflict accompanied by largescale displacement, GOAL, in collaboration with its partners, works to strengthen social cohesion between refugees, IDPs and host communities. Building on over forty years of global experience in helping people to survive crises, GOAL has technical capacity and strategic partnerships to respond quickly if emergency needs arise.

GOAL has supported conflict-affected populations in Iraq since 2015, is registered in both Federal Iraq and the Kurdish Region of Iraq (KRI), and has established relationships with local refugee, internally displaced and host communities in addition to strong strategic partnerships with national and international organisations, communal and district authorities.

NRC

NRC has been present in Iraq since 2010 and has been responding primarily to the needs of those affected by conflict and displacement by providing a wide range of assistance in accordance with the rights and needs of the affected population. The combination of such a diverse programming portfolio and our presence in geographically spread-out and strategic locations, has not only provided for significant reach and coverage but also enabled NRC to contribute to bridging the gap between humanitarian aid and development cooperation.

The latter has manifested in a programmatic focus on facilitating equitable access to basic services, recovery of economic activity, strengthening the rights of displaced people and returnees, as well as development activities geared towards preventing climate induced displacement and destabilisation.

NRC has experience in market-based (livelihoods) programming in Iraq. Activities in this regard have included training, grants for small businesses, vocational and soft skills training for enhanced employability among women and youth. With respect to agricultural livelihoods in particular, NRC strengthened markets for local products and provided extension services and training on modern farming techniques. As such, NRC has relevant experience and expertise in working with value chains and has also worked closely with the Department of Agriculture in this regard and a valuable relationship has been established.

UNHCR

UNHCR has a robust Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) program in place to provide consumption support to Syrian refugees and IDPs in Iraq and plays a catalytic role in livelihoods interventions through its leadership in refugee coordination, participation in the Livelihoods Sector and its advocacy for inclusion of refugees in national systems and programming with, respectively, (local) authorities and development actors.

UNHCR supports livelihoods actors with data and information sharing to strengthen geographical and beneficiary targeting and to inform interventions that contribute to the overall economic inclusion of refugees.

WORLD VISION (WV)

WV's global strategy sets out to deliver a tangible contribution to the well-being of children and key Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through relief, development and advocacy work. WV integrates the Graduation model into its livelihood interventions and long-term development strategy for the most vulnerable households. WV has global experience in implementing Graduation Approach with rich and diverse technical expertise and evidence generated that will be relevant to the coalition.

WV implements in Iraq emergency, early recovery and resilience programs through direct intervention and with contextualised innovative approaches targeting the most vulnerable with the objective of improving their well-being. The overall objective is to promote self-reliance of vulnerable people at critical times of their lives and raise the living standards. WV's key interventions within Iraq over the past few years have focused on food assistance and security, livelihood and economic empowerment, including income generation, job placement & creation and sustainable livelihoods.

Some of the project models and approaches WV used in the country based are Local Value Chain Development, Graduation Model, Youth and Women economic empowerment through livelihoods interventions focused on both on-farm and off-farm sectors, Financial Inclusion interventions and Business Skills Development.

Graduation Approach

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, a global coalition has been formed with UNHCR, the World Bank Partnership for Economic Inclusion and 13 NGO partners: BOMA Project, BRAC, Caritas Switzerland, Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), GOAL, HIAS, Innovation for Poverty Action (IPA), Mercy Corps, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Trickle Up, Village Enterprise and World Vision.

The aim of this coalition is to alleviate poverty particularly among vulnerable refugees and host communities by offering a personalized response to individual needs. The coalition is uniquely put together and able to combine forces of humanitarian and development actors with complementary expertise.

The Graduation Approach will guide the coalition's response. The approach combines humanitarian and development assistance and helps the extremely poor refugees and host communities to become self-reliant. The methodology is developed by BRAC and show impressive results with 95% of participants graduating out of poverty. A programme is typically 18-36 months.

Interventions targeting the poor are complex given the multi-dimensional nature of poverty. The poorest also tend to prioritize immediate needs over longer-term investments, which complicates efforts aimed at sustainable development. Behavioural research suggests that unless their immediate consumption needs are addressed, poor people make suboptimal economic decisions because of chronic distraction due to stress and to a "tunnelling" syndrome which limits their ability to focus beyond the next imminent crisis. Therefore, based on the foregoing, the implementation of a

graduation approach aims to move poor households into having sustainable livelihoods.

The theory of change behind graduation approach is anchored on the understanding that to move from poverty to having sustainable livelihoods, first basic survival needs must be met. Therefore, the approach combines consumption assistance with medium-term interventions (assets to launch a business, technical training, wage employment, and financial services) and long-term interventions aimed mentoring aimed at changing ingrained habits and mindsets.

The Theory of Change is anchored on three-part vision. First, that a meaningful up-front investment in poor families will help them develop sustainable livelihoods. Second, that as these households develop their capacity to generate increased income and build assets, their resilience will increase and their vulnerability to shocks will diminish correspondingly over time. This should reduce the risk of them falling back into poverty. But we recognize that the progress along the pathway is not linear and households will not progress evenly. Poor families are subject to many shocks; any one of these shocks may cause them to fall backwards. Not all households will progress at the same rate, and some households may not succeed. Third, the long-term benefits will accrue both to those individuals and families directly affected, breaking entrenched, multi-generational poverty and of reducing inequality.

There are, however, several factors beyond the programme's reach which can greatly influence outcomes such as constraining household characteristics, absence of markets, limited health infrastructure, lack of physical infrastructure and macroeconomic shocks. This project aims to graduate 5,000 poor households, consisting of refugee households (80%) and IDP and host community households (20%) from poverty to having sustainable livelihoods in Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah governorates in KR-I. The coalition partners aim to reach this target in a period of 5 years with program cycles of around 2 years each, including 12 to 18 months consumption support and 12 months of training, mentoring and asset support.

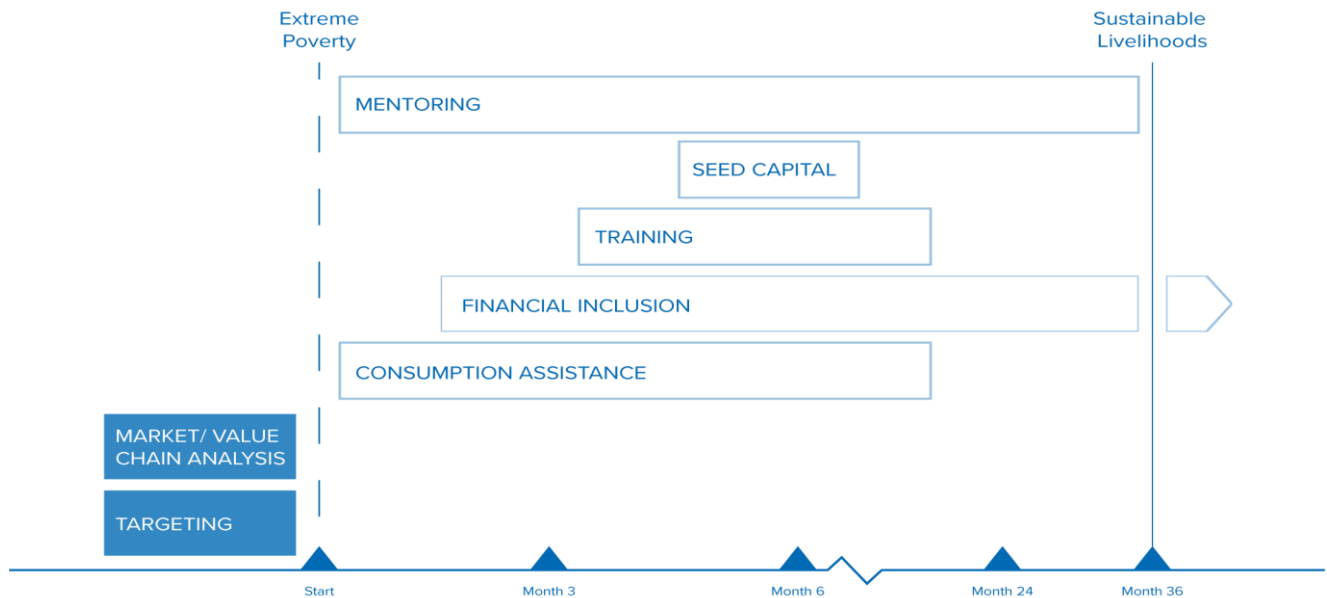


Figure 1: Graduation into Sustainable Livelihoods Approach

Beneficiary Needs and Market Awareness

The coalition partners will adapt their interventions to the local context based on available needs assessments, research and data regarding household vulnerability. The main sources of information in Iraq are the Multi-Sector and Multi-Cluster Needs Assessments, studies on the impact of COVID-19 by the World Bank, UNDP and KRSO, analysis of data captured through UNHCR’s Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT) and Registration activities, and programme data on displacement affected communities collected through the Socio Economic Vulnerability Assessment Tool, used by several cash implementing humanitarian partners in Iraq¹. The available sources will be consulted before implementation and in coordination with all relevant stakeholders.

Furthermore, the coalition partners will rely on available labor market assessment in KR-I and, if needed, conduct analysis and assessments relate to labour market, value chains, etc. in the various locations and governorates where the project will be implemented. The primary objective will be to ensure identification of market-driven skills development and support with relevant asset transfers as well as facilitate various trainings for job placements.

Targeting and Beneficiary Selection

Currently, Livelihood actors in Iraq are using a variety of targeting methodologies to select

beneficiaries for their programs: household visits, (self-)referrals, community-based targeting, area-based approaches, etc. The PAC partners aim to strengthen the harmonization and coordination of beneficiary selection and targeting methods to ensure that targeting is needs-based and to avoid duplication. For *refugee beneficiary selection*, the coalition will (where feasible and possible) use UNHCR’s Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT) and registration data as a tool to target and select beneficiaries, leading to referrals of households based on agreed upon criteria and/or results and better coordination of household visits to avoid duplication.

In 2018, investments were made to improve the targeting framework for UNHCR Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance through protection tri-dimensional vulnerability measurement (risk, coping capacity and well-being) using food security index and assessed vulnerability (assessor judgement) as proxy indicators based on VAT assessments. The outcome of the VAT assessments divides refugee households in 6 groups going from food insecure to food secure and empowered. UNHCR’s MPCA program is targeting the most vulnerable groups, but the classification and collected VAT data, can be used to support beneficiary targeting in all groups of coalition partners.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, UNHCR will put large scale VAT household visits on pause during the first half year of 2021 and will further target for MPCA eligibility through vulnerability predictions using a Proxy Means Test (PMT) approach.

¹ <https://www.socialprotection.org/discover/publications/humanitarian-assistance-and-social-safety-nets-protracted-crises-case-study-0>

UNHCR will do efforts to strengthen its data-driven targeting framework in 2021 and continues to support PAC partners with the selection of beneficiaries based on any available data.

For *IDP, IDP returnee and host community member beneficiary selection*, coalition partners will use consumption-based survey and Proxy Mean Testing (PMT), adopted by the Cash Working Group and Cash Consortium since 2019, as a harmonized targeting model in the HRP IDP response. The PMT based targeting method represents a strategic choice and aims to prepare a potential conversion of an emergency response like MPCA into a national social protection scheme.

While the usage of the same targeting model will ensure data compatibility, in order to ensure proper referral and avoid duplication of efforts, coalition partners will engage in using a common platform for data crosschecking and data sharing. Coalition partners may still want to identify eligible beneficiaries through internal targeting efforts or referrals from other relevant stakeholders. Establishing a data platform would assist the tracking of livelihoods assistance.

Consumption Support

UNHCR has a robust MPCA programme in place to support Syrian refugees and IDPs in Iraq. UNHCR aims to target vulnerable refugee households living in urban areas with 12 months (equivalent of 250 USD per month) MPCA (extended to 18 months due to COVID-19) and vulnerable IDP households with 3 months (equivalent of 400 USD per month) MPCA. The targeting of households is conducted based on vulnerability assessments as per the above and with a specific focus on socio-economic vulnerability. Households that meet MPCA eligibility criteria can be referred to coalition partners after finalizing or during the MPCA cycle to avoid duplication of the consumption support part of the graduation approach. If coalition partners are conducting their own beneficiary selection, it can be double-checked if a household is already receiving MPCA to assess if additional consumption support is needed. If yes, consumption support can still be provided by the other coalition partners.

Skills Training

Depending on the needs, DRC, GOAL, NRC and WV will provide a variety of skill trainings a part of the graduation approach. For cash beneficiaries, financial health encouragement sessions can be provided by DRC and NRC (as part of the Cash Consortium Iraq) to improve financial management, savings, manage debts and repayments, and prepare for livelihoods investments activities. This training is developed and used by the Cash

Consortium Iraq for the MPCA program and it is found to be successful, helping beneficiaries in improving their household cash management skills.

For beneficiaries of business grants, business development and management trainings are organized. Currently, ILO is rolling out a program in Iraq to harmonize business development training. The ILO curriculum consists of 10 modules, followed by a top-up session on business proposal development and grant award process. The other modules include topics related to financial literacy for business owners, basic accounting, market competition, procurement, marketing and management techniques and theories. These topics are to ensure that beneficiaries have a robust baseline set of skills to manage an enterprise or an income-generating activity. This curriculum can be complemented by other topics depending on the specific needs and interests of the beneficiaries.

Finally, beneficiaries will be supported with vocational training, linked to job placement or job referrals into the local labour market or opportunities to start a business. These trainings can be complemented with employability training, focusing on soft skills, how to develop a CV, do an interview, etc. This training helps beneficiaries that usually participate in vocational training and they want to engage with the private sector. For vocational and technical training efforts will be made to make linkages with MoLSA training centres and/or private institutes.

Assets and Seed Capital

After finalizing the training component, beneficiaries have the chance to submit business proposals. Beneficiaries will be coached and mentored during the training to prepare good proposals. Proposals go through a review and are evaluated against market studies to assess feasibility, competitiveness, potential of growth, etc. Grants can be allocated to all beneficiaries or go through a competitive process, selecting the proposals with higher chances to succeed and contribute to the local market circuits.

Grant amounts depend on the type of business (micro, small or medium) and can vary depending if the business is new or if the grant will be used to scale-up an existing business (the latter being less likely as beneficiaries would be targeted based on vulnerability and be less likely to already own a business). Beneficiaries sign a MoU, detailing the terms and conditions of the assistance and the grants are disbursed in different instalments (depending on the amount).

Coaching and Mentoring

At the assessment and beneficiary selection stage, counselling sessions are organized with the beneficiaries that have been found eligible for the support, to assess motivation of the beneficiary as well as their skills and potential long-term solutions. In this session, it is defined if a beneficiary goes through the business development process or a wage employment process.

During the training process, business advisors work closely with each beneficiary to ensure the maximum benefit through tailored support and one-to-one coaching mentorship. An individual coaching plan will be designed for each beneficiary during

the implementation and the use of business grants. The mentoring support is customized to specific types of business, local market, legal framework, financial system, etc. and provides information about financial service providers, how to access them.

DRC also created a network of business owners and DRC “alumni” who can provide ongoing peer-to-peer support and reinforce horizontal and vertical market links between enterprises. This promotes information dissemination among entrepreneurs, which is often identified as a major obstacle to conducting business in Iraq. In KR-I, for example, DRC has established alumni networks through *WhatsApp* groups providing advice and links to mentors.

Project Management and Governance

Coalition Organisational Capacity

Coalition partners in Iraq will work towards the common vision of increasing resilience, self-reliance and social inclusion of Syrian refugees & host communities (including IDPs and IDP returnees) by sustainably increasing their income-earning opportunities. Using the graduation approach, the coalition partners will support vulnerable and poor households (men and women) through a step-by-step from poverty to self-reliance. This will be done in close coordination with institutions, systems and structures that exists within Federal Iraq and KR-I that contribute to poverty alleviation such as other Agencies and NGOs, relevant Sectors (for refugees) and Clusters (for IDPs); Development Actors, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), the Ministry of Planning (MoP), Chamber of Commerce and the respective lines ministries both at national and governorate levels.

To implement the five stages of the graduation approach (consumption support, market-oriented skills training for self- or wage employment informed by the market and gender assessment, asset transfer, access to inclusive financial services through savings groups and/or linkages to formal services, access to social and legal services and mentoring), in a successful and coordinated manner in Federal Iraq and KR-I, the coalition partners will share expertise and capacity with a specific focus their in-house expertise. As highlighted above, UNHCR is taking the lead in the overall coordination, targeting, data collection and sharing, consumption support and advocacy for the inclusion of refugees into national systems. DRC, GOAL, NRC and WV will use their expertise, experience and knowledge to implement livelihoods interventions that support selected beneficiaries with accessing sustainable livelihoods opportunities through employment, business development and overall training. Through information sharing, partners will avoid geographical overlap and duplication in beneficiary targeting.

Broader Project Stakeholders

To achieve the objectives of the project, the coalition partners will closely coordinate and collaborate with relevant governmental and non-governmental actors across various levels. Furthermore, coalition partners will coordinate with various sectors and clusters within Iraq, with the aim of ensuring a coordinated approach with other actors implementing aspects of the graduation model. These coordination efforts should avoid gaps, programmatic and geographical overlap and gaps, and will promote harmonization of beneficiary selection methods, information sharing and standardised programming with minimal standards.

Especially the Livelihoods Sector will play a crucial role for the sustainability of the coalition's objectives, with a specific focus on financial and economic inclusion, and the inclusion of displaced populations in other relevant government services and social protection schemes. The Livelihoods Sector will also be the main platform, with the support of UNHCR, to make linkages with larger development actors, such as ILO, UNDP and GIZ.

IMPACT Initiatives, the Durable Solutions Platform, and other research and advocacy partners will continue to be informed about the program to align research topics with the project objectives. All coalition partners will be involved and contribute to the design of relevant research thematic areas and some level of operational research.

The coalition partners will, with support of the Livelihoods Sector, closely liaise with relevant government entities, mentioned above, to align the project with government policies, development plans and efforts of the authorities that are in line with the objectives of the program. The coalition will advocate for the inclusion of its targeted beneficiaries in relevant programs at government side and national systems where applicable. Similar efforts will be done with relevant development actors.

Project Impact and Sustainability

Intended Impact

The first and direct intended impact this project is the graduation of 5,000 poor households consisting of refugees, IDPs and vulnerable host community members from poverty and dependency on humanitarian assistance to self-reliance through access to sustainable livelihoods in Duhok, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates by 2024. The graduation approach aims to address the multi-dimensionality of poverty and intends to contribute to the priorities of the National Development Plan (access to basic services, education, food security, health, standard of living, decent employment, social development and inclusion).

The project intends to contribute to leaving no one behind commitment within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by reaching out to all people in need and deprivation, wherever they are, in a manner which targets their specific challenges and vulnerabilities, and aims to reduce the socio-economic vulnerabilities of both refugee and host-communities. The coalition partners will ensure that all targeted beneficiaries, without discrimination, have improved and equal access to qualitative services and assistance. Each intervention within the project will apply a gender equality lens aims at minimum that at least 40% of the beneficiaries are female.

Additionally, this project will also play a catalytic role in strengthening the overall livelihoods coordination in KR-I and liaison with strategic stakeholders outside the humanitarian sector. It will also be used as an entry point to support local authorities to strengthen national systems and advocate for the longer-term inclusion of refugees and displaced populations in national systems.

Sustainability and Exit Strategy

Refugees' livelihoods outcomes and economic inclusion are supported (and/or restricted) by a number of issues. Inclusion into a market system (such as through wage or self-employment) depends not only on access to a wide range of support services including finance, training, access to education at all levels, coaching and job placement services, but also on a conducive enabling environment shaped by rules and regulations governing rights and security. Understanding the market system and challenges refugees may face in inclusion is key for strategizing how best to design and engage in

interventions enhancing their economic inclusion. This project aims directly and indirectly to contribute to an enabling environment for refugees and displaced populations in order to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

In KR-I, refugees have de facto access to work in a variety of sectors. However, a comprehensive mapping of legal frameworks and policies in KR-I and Federal Iraq, as well as informal rules and prevailing social and cultural norms, is missing to better understand how the de facto access to work is linked to the right to work. The mapping also includes other related enabling rights (such as freedom of movement, housing, land, education, justice and property rights) or lack of access to relevant services (financial services, training, certification, social protection, or employment and business registration). The coalition partners will contribute to the mapping existing policies and legal frameworks, informal rules, market and business assessments and national employment and social protection services, to have a better understanding of opportunities for inclusion into national systems, services, businesses and markets and will work together with the relevant actors and the Livelihoods Sector to come up with an advocacy strategy.

The coalition partners will work in parallel on supporting a strong social protection infrastructure for persons of concern in Iraq. In particular, this means working jointly with development partners and government counterparts to build systems through which joint referrals could be made for inclusion of target populations into different types of social protection schemes, including, but not limited to, unemployment support, government administered social safety nets, and the Public Distribution System of the GoI.

A joint advocacy approach and systems strengthening of the social protection systems both at governorate and national level will be undertaken by coalition partners in close collaboration with any existing initiatives aimed at strengthening the same social protection system. The coalition partners will also continue to explore opportunities of including refugees in existing social protection systems or alternatives.

The coalition partners will develop a clear exit strategy for graduating beneficiaries/households through linkage with social protection services for non-refugee/host communities, market linkages

and job placement for both refugees and non-refugees, financial inclusion through established savings groups to strengthen household economy hence contribute to resilience to shocks.

Advocating for complementary investments on sectors such as water, health, education and infrastructures by government and other actors within the project areas.

However, given the dire socio-economic climate in KR-I and Federal Iraq, exacerbated by the negative impacts of COVID-19, the coalition partners are

aware of the limitations of their role and the impact of their interventions. Advocacy will therefore also need to target government entities, development actors and donors on the inclusion of refugees and other persons of concern in bigger socio-economic recovery and development plans. The KRG is currently drafting its new regional development plan Vision 2030, the successor of Vision 2020. This plan will have a strong focus on economic recovery and diversification, and efforts need to be done to ensure that refugees and displacement are incorporated.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Effective implementation of the project requires continuous monitoring and review of both progress and design. Monitoring will not only be conducted to capture important data for tracking and improving household progress for reporting, but also contributes to continuous learning that will help refine operations during the programme cycle. Monitoring and evaluation will be designed to feed into the planning for future implementation and build the partners' knowledge repository on how to implement graduation in the Iraq context. Monitoring will take place at two levels, the programme and household level. Building the monitoring system during the planning phase will ensure that the programme and household plans will be kept on track and that issues are identified and addressed early.

At the household level, the project will focus on up-to-date data on participant progress towards graduation criteria which will be fundamental to ensuring success of the participant within the programme cycle. Coalition partners will review the beneficiaries' progress across all graduation criteria before and during each household visit since this will be used to provide additional support on. At the programme level, monitoring involves the tracking of the quality and progress of activities outlined in the programme plan. The monitoring information allows partners to make critical iterations to adapt to challenges on the ground and ensure effective implementation.

Impact evaluations will be undertaken to complement a robust internal programme monitoring framework and will be collected on a sample of households at baseline, mid-line, and

endline by the REACH. Impact evaluations will be used to answer broader questions around the programme's impact measured at discrete intervals typically at the outset, midpoint, and close of programme operations. These will play an important role within the coalition partners by improving programme effectiveness, increasing accountability, demonstrating presence or absence of near-term and long-term outcomes and advocating for change using evidence-backed rationale for changes to policy and practice at local, national, and global levels.

Each coalition partner will monitor and evaluate its own interventions internally and will bilaterally report to donors. The PAC will, however, also report to the Secretariat of the Poverty Alleviation Coalition, which sits in the UNHCR HQ in Geneva, as a joint coalition on costs per household and graduation rates.

To measure the graduation rate, the PAC will rely on household and population information and data captured in baseline sample surveys, such as the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA), and individual household visits of targeted families by using the Vulnerability Assessment Tool (VAT) or other monitoring tools. In addition to the total number of households graduated, the PAC partners will also collect information about (i) food security (did the food security of targeted households increase?), (ii) income levels (did the income of targeted households increase?) and (iii) financial inclusion (did savings of targeted households increase?) before and after receiving assistance.

Project Budget

The PAC proposes a 5-year project with operational research and preparation embedded within the first 2 years. The overall target will be 5,000 HHs in Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah and the proposed budget for the project is USD xxx. Between the different PAC countries, there is a

wide range in costs, reflecting the differences in underlying cost structures from country to country. As Iraq is an upper middle-income country, the average cost per household is relatively high in comparison to other PAC countries.

PROJECT NEEDS	Total
ASSESSMENT COSTS	200,000
PREPARATORY COSTS	50,000
PARTICIPANT TARGETING & TRAINING	250,000
PARTICIPANT DIRECT SUPPORT	
Social Protection - Consumption Support	
Non-refugee beneficiaries (1,000) supported with \$ 400 per month for 3 months (assumption UNHCR supports refugees with MPCA for 1 Year)	1,200,000
Asset Transfer and Technical & Business Skills Training	
5,000 poor beneficiaries supported with Asset Transfer and Capacity Building at an estimated cost of \$ 1,500 per beneficiary	7,500,000
Financial Inclusion - Savings Support and Financial Literacy Training	
Financial Literacy Training, Establishment of Savings Groups and facilitate the groups at least for one cycle (assumption 100% of beneficiaries are trained on Financial Literacy and taken through savings training - estimated costs of Financial Literacy Training is \$ 50 per beneficiary for 5 sessions while for Savings Groups have an estimated cost of \$ 150 for 12 months to establish)	
Financial Literacy Training	250,000
Establishment and Support of Saving Groups	750,000
Social Empowerment - Social Integration and Life-skills Training (Coaching)	
All beneficiaries receive life skills and social cohesion sessions, estimated cost for facilitating this social empowerment for at least 12 months is \$100 per beneficiary	500,000
RESEARCH, MONITORING & EVALUATION, KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT & DISSEMINATION	750,000
Project Total	11,450,000