

PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, & POLICY DEVELOPMENT PRACTICES FOR IMPROVED SERVICES

The Iraqi people remains in urgent need of improved services and long-term sustainable local development. In this context it is important to have policies in place aiming to solve the most pertinent problems, plans that are based on facts and responds to the needs of the most vulnerable, and service programmes which are based on agreed standards while also leaving room for more localized solutions. In different ways, LOGDEVI has partnered with Iraqi institutions to address gaps in policy, planning and programmes. Some examples are:

Sectoral annual plans: LOGDEVI has worked with the Provincial Planning and Development Councils (PPADCs) in Muthanna and Diwaniyah and planning sections in decentralised departments to develop annual sectoral plans, and assisted local government in drawing up local policy, in order to improve service delivery. Methods of calculating service indicators and gaps were introduced, and technical work teams in governorates were engaged to develop fact-based plans for:

- Planning sections in Education, Health, Water, Sewage, and Municipalities Departments in Al-Diwaniyah.
- Planning sections in Education, Health, and Roads and Bridges Departments in Muthanna.

Standard programme for child protection in Kurdistan Region: A standard programme which defines levels and content of child protection services has been developed in a collaborative process between Duhok DoLSA and MoLSA engaging also with the Erbil and Suleymaniah governorates. The programme guidelines are available in three languages – Arabic, Badini and Sorani. Staff in over 20 child protection community centers in Duhok have gained capacity through a series of workshops. Gender perspectives are integrated in the document and the standard programme for child protection is now integrated into MoLSAs administrative and policy framework for the whole of the Kurdistan region. As described under a previous heading, the standard programme also has



strong institutional development aspects to it, defining organizational frameworks and functions.

Policy development model developed and tested: By the request of the High Commission for the Coordination among Provinces (HCCP), LOGDEVI arranged a process with local partners with a purpose to define a standard for policy development exploring the different roles of federal and local authorities. A public policy manual was developed which was shared with all governorates and later adopted as the definition for policy development by the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers. LOGDEVI and IRFAD were invited to be represented in the National Committee on Public Policy formed by the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, where all ministries are represented.



Following this, the Ministry Municipalities and Public Works initiated a pilot policy development process aiming to elaborate on local and federal policy mandates in selected areas. The Ministry worked together with governorate technical teams over longer period. In Diwaniyah the focus was on local policy for sustainable potable water, in Muthanna it was about treatment of pollution and salinity of water, and the Ministry focused on a policy for solid waste processing. Experienced technical teams were formed in Muthanna, Diwaniyah and the Ministry, with relevant local authorities serving as supporting entities - e.g. environment department - health directorate - department of sewage - investment commission - irrigation department and others.