

Building sustainable futures by improving local services to displaced people in Iraq



Sustainable Development through improved Local Governance Programme (SDLG)

The SDLG programme covers **four thematic priorities**: Security & Rule of Law, Migration, Local Revenue Mobilisation, and Integrated Water Management. SDLG is currently being implemented in 10 countries: Algeria, Burundi, Iraq, Mali, Palestine, Tunisia, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda. Despite the diverging contexts and themes, the SDLG programme pursues one overall objective: to **empower local governments and their representative bodies to shape a more sustainable future for their communities**.

SDLG in Iraq

The programme **aims to make local authorities more resilient** in areas with a **large influx of displaced** within their territories. We will do so by **complementing** area-based development, **building on existing** governance structures and service delivery mechanisms, **targeting all people in an area**, especially but not exclusively the vulnerable ones. Services, infrastructure, markets, livelihoods, governance structures and community support mechanisms are all in need of development to further resilience.

In Iraq, our focus will be on the subnational governments and local service provision departments dealing with displacement in **Nineveh and the Kurdistan Region** of Iraq. The targeted districts are Duhok, Sumel, Sheikhan, Tal Keif and Al-Hamdaniyah, and within them the **smaller towns in these districts**. Their citizens from host, refugee and IDP communities are our final beneficiaries.

The SDLG programme will support the Kurdistan Regional Government in **modernizing its local administration** through conferences in cooperation with academia, establishment of a local government Working Group and to further built on the partnerships with some of the international partners. It will **support local authorities** in applying Geographical Information Systems, in improving Crisis Management, Solid Waste Management, Public Transport and Public Infrastructure, and in job creation with facilitating the establishment of small enterprises. Finally, it will work on **improving communication** between local authorities and the population, through improving leadership within local authorities as well as improving citizenship among civil society.

Our approach

The program targets local and regional governments within Iraq, it's community members and in particular vulnerable groups. To make local authorities more resilient, SDLG will work on institutional, organisational and individual level, towards four outcomes:

Outcome 1: Improved mandate of the subnational governments and local service provision departments in the intergovernmental relationship

An outcome VNGi aims to achieve via improved laws and implementation frameworks and by improving the participation of subnational governments in intergovernmental cooperation to influence national policies.

Outcome 2: Improved subnational government and local service provision department decision making processes, policies and services

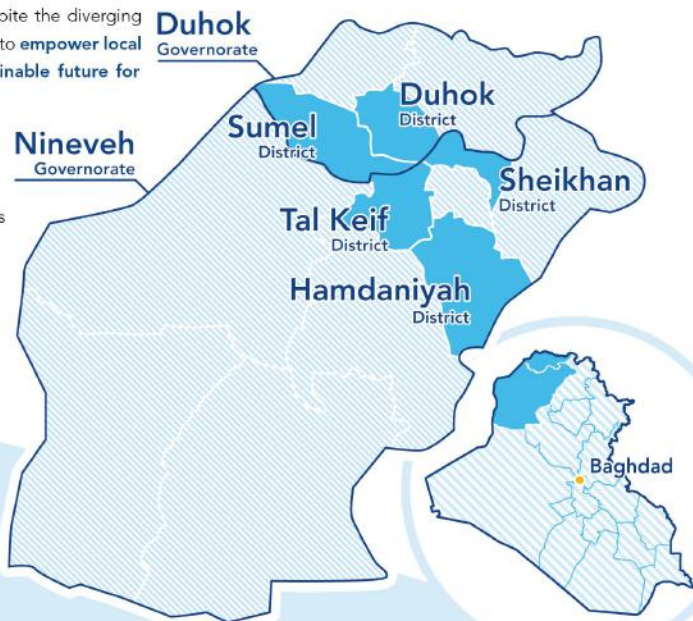
By improving decision making processes, including the identification and representation of citizen needs, the mobilisation of additional resources to respond to citizen's needs, and by improving the formulation and implementation of procedures, standards and policies, subnational governments and local service provision departments will be more resilient.

Outcome 3: Improved leadership within subnational governments

Within this outcome leaders will improve their understanding of their roles and mandate and VNGi will support them to act with integrity in line with their functions and duties.

Outcome 4: Empowered social groups and improved citizenship

This outcome concentrates on enabling local communities to participate in local government decision making, accountability and service implementation. Furthermore society groups will be supported to improve their awareness, access to information and participation mechanisms.



Our cooperation and partnerships on the ground

VNG International cooperates with different **ministries and their deconcentrated units**, as **this is vital** to the success of the SDLG programme. The programme builds on **strong partnerships** and cooperation established over the last years, **consults NGOs and other civil society organisations**, and **coordinates with international partners**.

Who are we?

In over forty projects worldwide, VNG International strengthens local governments, associations of municipalities, and local trainings institutes. VNG International was founded in 1993 by the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (Vereniging Nederlandse Gemeenten, VNG), the world's oldest association of municipalities. VNG International is housed within the association's offices in The Hague, allowing it to easily access the know-how of the Dutch local government sector. Besides its offices in the Netherlands, VNG International is represented globally through a daughter company in Tunisia, as well as over 15 local project offices. VNG International's projects are funded by various donors including the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and the World Bank.

The **SDLG Programme** is based on a partnership between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands and VNG International. The partnership builds on concrete results from our previous collaborations. VNG International has crafted local peace treaties that opened up the road to economic recovery, increased self-reliance of local governments by raising their revenue from local taxes. It has assisted cities to get a grip on their services and environment and has designed and supported reforms creating space for democratic and participatory practice. VNG International partners with local governments, as well as with civil society in cases where local governments were part of the problem. As part of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities, our projects frequently engage with Dutch municipalities as partners or sources of expertise.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands

SDLG IRAQ
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH
IMPROVED LOCAL GOVERNANCE

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