



## **World Vision Iraq**

### **Market and Value Chain Assessment in Til Kaif and Tooz**

World Vision carried out a labour market assessment and value chain assessment in Salah Al-Din (Tooz) and Ninewa (Til-Kaif) to identify activities that can foster effective and inclusive economic development and livelihood programming for both IDPs and permanent residents the two districts.

#### **Methodology**

Included desk review, questionnaires, key informant interviews and focus group discussions based on which market and Value chain reports were generated for Tooz and Til-Kaif.

# Key Findings

## Labor Market

### Supply Gaps

- The lack of experience for young people,
- Limited access to vocational training to improve job seekers access to labour market nepotism in identifying skilled workers (for small businesses mainly).
- Lack of motivation by the local population to work (according to the employers,
- Difficulties to find industrial specific skills locally,

### Demand gaps

- The lack of opportunities for growth,
- Poor working conditions in private sector hence cannot attract skilled and experienced staff,
- Lack of contacts and social networks to secure better jobs (nepotism),
- Low salaries offered by small businesses and privately owned businesses,
- Lack of human resources management strategy for companies in the private sector.

Interview results indicate agriculture enterprises continue to provide many opportunities for young people including women and PWD's and have a proven track record of lifting families out of poverty.



# Key recommendations

## Labor market

- Improving skills and expanding the network of young people by encouraging and supporting youth to learn new specific skills that enable them to enter the job market.
- Developing and strengthening employment in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and with local industries through capacity building and business development support.
- Support businesses to access to finance through affordable loans and business pitch training.
- Work with SMEs, youth and local authorities to revitalize industries, including tourism through training, policy changes and subsidy.
- Promote labour intensive programs and cash based programming to support most vulnerable IDP families as well as stimulate local markets.



# Value chains

## Core Value chains

### 1 Wheat and Barley

This is a common and significant economic activity and produces the two main crops for food and fodder.

- Government policies on pricing and purchasing wheat means farmers plant only the types of grain the government will buy, which is not as hardy (to drought etc.) as some other strains.
- Low production due to lack of knowledge on improved production techniques.
- High production losses due to pest and disease infestation.
- Lack of access to market information leading selling at lower than prevailing market prices.
- Lack of market access means most have to rely on intermediaries and larger, well-connected farmers who have existing agreements with government-owned Silos.
- Lack of access to markets, most have to rely on intermediaries and larger well-connected farmers who have existing agreements with government-owned Silos.
- Limited access to irrigation.
- Agricultural extension service is weak.

# Livestock

## Calf Fattening in Til-Kaif

Livestock is one of the main sources of livelihood for women and youth. The area has favorable climatic conditions as well as large range areas for raising and fattening calves.

- Limited access to market information.
- Limited knowledge on managing animal diseases and access to animal health services.
- Prolonged droughts leading to an increase in the price of fodder and reduced terms of trade between animal and fodder.
- Increased cost of production.
- Lack of capacity by the government to adequately support farmers.
- Lack of protective policies against importation of live animals and animal products affecting profitability in local production.
- Exploitation by middle men and traders who mainly control the market prices.
- Lack/limited access to finance and financial services.







### Sheep Husbandry in Tooz

Sheep is mainly bred for meat, milk and wool providing small holder farmers with income and food. Challenges faced in sheep production include:

- Limited access to market information.
- Lack of access to improved production techniques.
- Limited knowledge on managing animal diseases and access to animal health services.
- Prolonged droughts leading to an increase in the price of fodder and reduced terms of trade between animal and fodder.
- Increased cost of production.
- Lack of capacity by the government to adequately support farmers.
- Lack of protective policies against the importation of live animals and animal products affecting profitability in local production.
- Exploitation by intermediaries and traders who mainly control the market prices.
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## Restaurant work in Tooz

The restaurant industry in Tooz consists of around thirty restaurants providing over 510 jobs. The demand for services is good and offers job opportunities for young people.

### Challenges

- The depreciation of Iraqi dinar against major currencies has led to an increase in the prices of some of the raw materials and ingredients.
- COVID-19 mitigation measures such as lockdown have led to numerous closures of restaurants.
- Electricity supply interruptions affect the smooth running of operations. Most equipment such as deep freezers, cookstoves and ovens rely on electricity

## Cheesemaking

Al-Qosh is well known for its cheese making. The cheese is sold to the markets in Al-Qosh, Til-Kaif, Duhok and Erbil. Most workers in this craft are females.

### Challenges

- Prolonged droughts leading to decreased milk production.
- Strict access regulations in areas under the control of the Kurdistan Regional Government and those under the control of the central Iraqi Government that negatively affect the supply.
- Most of the workers in these enterprises are women and do not get paid a salary.
- While women have a critical role in all stages of the value chain, they are largely excluded at the selling stage, where men sell cheese most of the time.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Promote inclusive market systems development to stimulate the demand and supply, interventions that increase access to market and market information would be most beneficial for producers.
- Promote climate-smart practices to increase production in the face of changing climate. This should include capacity building and access to relevant technologies/techniques that support adaptation.
- Business development support to MSMEs and SMEs.
- Facilitate access to credit and financial services by promoting youth and women community-based savings groups to enhance access to affordable credit for investment SMEs and foster an entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- Raise awareness regarding the role of women and PWLD in the local economy and their right to work.
- Assist with establishing more enterprises that support women and PLWD, starting with agricultural activities.
- Cash-programming interventions to stimulate market activities (Supply and demand of goods).
- Support livelihood recovery intervention for a drought-affected population could include support to access seed, agricultural inputs and veterinary services.

