



Iraq Durable Solutions - Subgroup for Sustainable Livelihoods

Community of Practice for Climate Resilience for Livelihood and Agriculture (CoP-CRLA)

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Background

Iraq is ranked the fifth most vulnerable country to climate change. The climate risks impact the country's overall stability and prosperity: ongoing water shortages and rising temperatures are placing growing pressure on basic resources and reducing livelihood opportunities in once-prosperous sectors, such as agriculture. The climate crisis is a significant compounding factor exacerbating the socio-economic vulnerabilities faced by IDPs, returnees, and host communities in Iraq. Iraq is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate-related shocks, resulting in losses both in financial and physical terms. The recurring climate-related shocks include rising temperatures and depletion of the water bodies. The country is quickly running out of water. In a business-as-usual scenario, the widening gap between water supply and demand will increase from around 5 billion to 11 billion cubic meters by 2035. It has been observed over the years that water scarcity and suboptimal water quality can significantly reduce crop yields and affect agri-food systems, threatening food security and livelihoods.

In this context, the Iraq Durable Solutions (DS) Subgroup for Sustainable Livelihoods launched a Climate Resilience Task Force in September 2023. The task force aims to contribute to agricultural livelihoods by developing an approach that supports climate change programming while aligning with the national strategy and local context.

As a task force, we are developing this TOR to establish a Community of Practice (ToC) under the CRLA TF to provide a collaborative platform for stakeholders to share knowledge, strategies, and best practices for climate-resilient livelihoods and agriculture. The CoP aims to align efforts with Iraq's national climate resilience strategies, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and strengthen the socio-economic stability of affected populations.

The objective of the CoP

The primary objective of the CoP-CRLA is to support and share experiences for climate resilience with a focus on sustainable livelihoods and agriculture for vulnerable populations in Iraq. Specific objectives include:

- Facilitate the exchange of experiences, tools, and resources among members to promote climate adaptation solutions.
- Build a repository of research, reports, and/or evidence-based practices for climate resilience focusing on livelihood and agriculture fields.
- Foster collaboration with government entities, academia, research institutions, and development organizations.
- Map and engage actors in climate resilience initiatives, including government ministries, private sector partners, NGOs, etc.



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Structure of the CoP

- The CoP-CRLA will include members from international and local organizations, government entities, academia, and/or the private sector.
- Membership is voluntary, with participants expressing interest in contributing to climate resilience efforts.

Meetings and Communication

- **Frequency:** Quarterly meetings, with ad hoc sessions organized as needed.
- **Agenda and Minutes:** Agendas will be shared one week before each meeting, and minutes will be distributed within one week after the meeting.
- **Communication:** A designated email group and shared platform will be established to ensure timely updates and resource sharing.

Roles and responsibilities

IRC as Chair:

- Convene and facilitate meetings, prepare agendas, and document outcomes.
- Provide technical and coordination support to CoP members.
- Share tools, resources, and key learning with all members.

CoP Members:

- Participate actively in meetings and discussions.
- Share expertise, research, and resources to strengthen climate resilience efforts.
- Support policy advocacy and stakeholder engagement initiatives.
- Contribute to the development of climate resilience tools, materials, and strategies.

Expected Outcomes

- Strengthened collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders.
- Improved technical capacity to design and implement climate-resilient livelihoods and agricultural interventions.
- Alignment of stakeholder efforts with Iraq's national climate adaptation strategies.
- Scaled-up impact of climate resilience initiatives across Iraq.