



Iraq First Annual Report

Project	Horizon 2020 – RESPOND (770564)
Partner institution	HHRO
Contact person	William Warda
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19 December 2018

Respond

Annual Report

" December 1st 2017 to November 30th 2018 "

The report covers the activities carried out by the Iraqi research team within what is required under the "Respond" project, the progress of the work in the general framework, the progress in field work, the subject of forming a migration governance network (MGN), roundtables meetings, Dissemination, media, and preparation of Service Hubs.

There is no doubt that Hammurabi Human Rights Organization was in contact and follow-up with the project coordinators prior to its launch in December 2017. The project was studied thoroughly and that the objectives and goals of the project are in line or consistent with the objectives and approach of Hammurabi organization and the existence of common denominators that meet the principles and objectives of Hammurabi Organization, therefore the response of fast approval of Hammurabi Organization was to engage in the Consortium, and formed the research team of four people initially, then after two months of formation another researcher was added to be a total of five researchers, including a coordinator of the project, taking into consideration qualifications, efficiency, experience, gender and community diversity of Iraq, where the Iraqi team consisted of:

- William Khammoo Warda (Team Leader)
- Hamed Shihab Ahmad - (Analyst)
- YohannaYousif Tomaa – (Legal Expert)
- Nahla Arif - (Rapporteur)
- Ayad Cleman Samoeel - (Coordinator)

The head of the Iraqi research team, William Warda, participated in the Kick off meeting at Uppsala University in Sweden. He also participated in the meeting of Glasgow on May 2018, which was devoted to follow-up achievements during the first six months of the project and to plan for the next phase discussing the challenges and opportunities. He also participated in the annual meeting held through Adobe program on December 3rd, 2018, where the agenda covered the progress of field work on micro and meso field interviews, as well as the progress in all the countries covered by the study and the extent to achieve the roundtable meetings of (Focus Groups) and other issues related to the details of the project work by country teams.

Meetings and progress in Iraq:

The Iraqi research team has achieved (13) meetings throughout the year since the project was launched on December 1st. The team achieved (7) meetings during the first half of the year (December 1st 2017 to May 31,2018) resulting in the completion of the first report WP1, which covered the legal and legislative framework in Iraq with regard to migration, refugees and political asylum seekers as well as displaced and forcibly displaced persons, the report included statistics and figures for refugees in Iraq, their geographic distribution, affiliations and assets, and the policies and nature of the management of refugee situations in terms of border management, reception, protection and integration. Following the completion of the first report, the research team held six consecutive meetings in the second half of the year (June 1st to November 30th 2018), focusing on the follow-up of the courses and vocabulary of Glasgow meeting held in May 2018 and the required arrangements for field work and preparation for interviews.

The meetings of Iraqi team dealt with drawing up plans and obtaining approvals for the ethical applications of Hammurabi Human Rights Organization from well-known universities, as well as the preparation of official papers to obtain governmental approval required to enter the camps and to interview refugees, the meetings also dealt with preparation of work mechanisms for the next year with respect to the Service Hubs,as well as the discussion and development of special questions for displaced and forcibly displaced persons, Sampling and how to conduct interviews at the micro and meso levels, as well as discussions on future work for

(WP2,3,4,5), defining schedules and plan for their implementation and allocating tasks to the research team.

The meetings also discussed logistical preparations for interviewing, assignment of tasks to members of the research team, and discussion of the challenges facing the work. The meetings also included the preparation of the semi-annual report as well as the annual general report and the required financial reports. The last two meetings of the year discussed the subject of Service Hubs, its plan work and the announcement , also the preparation of round table meeting, scheduled for December 15th 2018, (selection of participants, preparation and distribution of invitations to organizations and Stakeholders),the last meeting of the year, held on December 8, 2018, included following up and discussing what was done in the previous period, according to what was discussed at the last PL meeting of the Consortium on December 3rd 2018 via the Internet, and what is needed from Iraqi team, the preparations for the roundtable were also discussed and the possibility of forming MGNs and review the questions raised at the roundtable meeting on December 15th 2018.

Field work:

In the first half of the year, the research team conducted number of field meetings with immigration experts and made telephone calls to answer number of questions, including the official spokesman of the Ministry of Migration and Displaced, as well as the head of immigration and foreign affairs in the Ministry and the director of the office of non-governmental organizations in the Ministry and number of other concerned. These meetings were very important in the preparation of the first report WP1 on Iraq.

In the second half of the year, the field work was limited to interviewing Syrian refugees, some in compounds and other outside the compounds in Erbil. The team conducted (14) interview in September with Syrian refugees in Erbil and went to Dohuk in October according to the plan drawn within (Sampling). However the team encountered difficulties in meeting the refugees in a timely manner, because entering the camps requires prior security approvals and refugees avoided approving the interviews outside the camps for security reasons for fear from the camp administrations. So it was required to postpone it until the completion of the

procedures required to enter the camps. As for the meso interviews, only three organizations have been submitted to the interview application and questions scheduled on December. The research team is still waiting the response of the three organizations, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and The United Iraqi Medical Society for Relief and Development (UIMS).

That the Iraqi research team has made amendments to the work plan to complete the required field work commensurate with developments and updates that occurred on the interviews to be conducted in December 2018 and January 2019, but that requires extraordinary work.

The team succeeded in completing the roundtable meeting on December 15th and the meeting was productive, with experts representing Iraqi official institutions, international and national civil society organizations, writers and journalists. The meeting resulted in the participants agreed on a suggestion to create an Advisory Group or Advisory Committee on Migration and Refugee Affairs to discuss the reports, provide information for policy development, and contribute with Hammurabi Human Rights Organization to issue reports on the situation of migration refugees and forcibly displaced persons. The team or group includes individuals from official and non-official institutions to be members or Focal Points, contribute to (advocacy) on immigration and asylum if necessary. The participants also discussed and answered the questions prepared for the roundtable and provided the team with a wealth of information on policies, a number of developments, challenges and other decisions, procedures and measures.

The sessions were recorded by voice and photography and making short YouTube of the roundtable session.

Unfortunately, the Iraqi team was not able to involve members of the Consortium in the roundtable from outside Iraq as in the plan that was included in the semi-annual report as inviting some of our partners from the consortium as GCU or Cambridge or others, for difficulties in national decisions in obtaining the visa for foreigners, to make an invitation to a foreigner It is necessary to have a contract or memorandum of understanding between the calling party and the institution to which the foreigner belongs or the existence of a contract of employment with him. In addition, the

team was unable to receive a Reception event at the level of meso and local actors because of delays in interviews due to delays in obtaining approval for ethical applications from Al-Hamdaniya University in Nineveh for more than two months, this has affected the rapidity of micro and meso level interviews. As for the dissemination, the research team published its main activities on the organization's website and other sites, Youtube was also prepared for the roundtable. In the same context, the team will give a lecture at the Mustansiriya University in Baghdad to introduce Horizon 2020 and the Respond project on December 20th 2018.

Challenges and Obstacles:

The research team faced two fundamental challenges that led to some delays.

First, as noted above, the team waited more than two months to obtain the required approvals for ethical applications from Al-Hamdaniya University in Nineveh. HHRO request was made in late August 2018, but due to routine procedures and misunderstandings of the feasibility of ethical applications which are required for research according to EU standards, besides the administrative changes that coincided with the period of submission of the HHRO request for ethical application, where the university president was changed and that required new contacts and procedures, but in the end was not resolved as required, so the Iraqi team had to transfer the request to the Catholic University in Erbil, which gave us its support and approval of the ethical standards of Hammurabi Organization, after studying and understanding the demand of HHRO and that this delay led to postpone the interview process, then the work has delayed as in the plan which was schedule within our semi-annual report ,so the interviews with refugees started on October, November, December instead of doing it on August, September that affected the schedule of the rest of the events ..

The second challenge: interviews with refugees and forcibly displaced persons in the camps required obtaining special security approvals in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and complex routine procedures. Therefore, the research team was forced to conduct some meetings outside the camps in Erbil. In Dohuk (northwestern Iraq), refugees have been prevented from accepting meetings with them outside the camp for fear of their situation or being held accountable by the authorities there.

There is also something that must be mentioned within the challenges. It is related to financial matters. The expansion of the work requires the need for more expenditure than was calculated or planned when writing the Proposal on Iraq.

Conclusion and End:

Despite the challenges and obstacles faced by the research team in terms of access to information and routine administrative procedures in the approvals for interviews with refugees and forcibly displaced persons, the Iraqi research team managed with the vast relations possessed by Hammurabi Human Rights Organization for to accomplish the main tasks required to complete the WP1 report and achieve 25% of the required interviews have been placed on such a large scale of activities and are currently being discharged, dictated or copied until the remainder is completed soon. Roundtable discussions were held and the base of an advisory group or an advisory committee was agreed to be alternative of MGN, and its tasks focus on discussing immigration and asylum issues, also discussing completed reports on the subject and to provide information that would assist in the Advocacy. The WP2 report is expected to be completed in February next year, but the funding allocated to Hammurabi to hold all of these events is less than what is needed to achieve them, especially since the budget has not been placed on such large scale of activities.

In the end, the Iraqi research team seeks to complete reports WP2,3,4,5 within the specified time limits as much as possible, as well as has announced service hubs and work according to the plan, with the beginning of next year-January 2019, which attached to this report, also attached photos of number of implemented meetings and also the Youtube of the roundtable.

With our thanks and gratitude.

"The End"

Baghdad on December 19