

15<sub>M</sub>

 $8.5_{\text{M}}$ 

e-learning platform



Transforming the future of the Iraqi business environment



10.2021-10.2023

COVID-19 Adaptation and Recovery Pilot (CARP) is a development cooperation initiative financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank Group) and is implemented by GIZ on behalf of the Iraqi Ministry of Finance. CARP aims at supporting the resilience of viable micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and the sustainability of their intermediaries through capacity enhancement and access to finance in Iraq.

## What CARP does:

CARP is directly supporting the Central Bank of Iraq to strengthen the institutional framework of the microfinance sector while working directly with Micro-Finance Institutions, MSMEs and start-ups.

CARP leverages Iraqi MSMEs by focusing on the added value that can be brought to enterprises through digitalization. In doing so, CARP aims at laying the foundations for a much larger growth program based on financial inclusion and SME-support measures.

## Context

The outbreak of COVID-19 in Iraq has not only strained the country's health system but also its private sector. By building capabilities of firms in the field of tech adoption, digitalization and providing access to liquidity, CARP aims at supporting the Iraqi private sector eco-system to become more resilient and adaptive post-pandemic.



How CARP works:

CARP works hand in hand with national stakeholders of the Iraqi private sector and offers a twofold approach:



## Financial inclusion:

Supporting immediate relief of the microfinance sector in Iraq, including the most affected small business owners by providing:

- Liquidity support to microfinance institutions;
- 2. Technical assistance to support the Central Bank of Iraq's institutional infra-structure to develop non-bank financial institutions.



## MSME-Support:

- Supporting Iraqi MSMEs to enhance their capabilities, focusing on digitalization and resilience through blended learning methods, and financial aid in the form of vouchers and matching grants;
- Developing a grant ecosystem to catalyze private investment into Iraqi start-ups.

Financed by:



Implemented by:

CIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft
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