



INTRODUCING THE EDF INNOVATION 2024 COHORT



INTRODUCTION

IOM's Enterprise Development Fund (EDF) is an innovative program that supports livelihoods at the community level through private sector development. The EDF provides technical and financial support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to contribute to post-conflict recovery, climate-driven mobility, inclusive economic development and job creation. So far, EDF in Iraq has supported more than 2,600 SMEs to expand and create almost 12,000 jobs.

EDF Innovation (EDF-i) is an adaptation of the EDF that focuses on 'innovation', supporting entrepreneurship and job creation for youth and technology-focused start-ups in Iraq. Launched in 2019, EDF-i has helped young entrepreneurs to kick-start their businesses in software and application development, e-commerce, e-learning, and transformative digital solutions, among others. EDF-i works in collaboration with over 14 local partners who provide technical training, incubation and acceleration for start-ups to be market-ready.

As of March 2024, EDF-i has provided \$1 million in financial capital to 64 businesses, creating 333 new jobs. The average age of business owners supported by EDF-i is 29 years old, while the average age of the new workers hired as part of the EDF expansion plan is 26 years old, highlighting the importance of the start-up ecosystem in creating livelihoods opportunities for youth in Iraq. Furthermore, around 23% of the business owners are women, who are stepping out of traditional gender roles to become pioneers in their fields.

The tech and start-up industry in Iraq is still at a nascent stage and represents an underexplored market segment in Iraq. Supporting businesses to nurture innovation and explore new ways of thinking about business management opens blue ocean markets that can create and absorb young, innovative jobseekers and entrepreneurs.

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01

BACKSPACE SYSTEMS LTD

SOFTWARE AND
ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS
FOR RESTAURANTS

**REZHWAN SORAN MOHAMMED
& YAD FARHAD FATAH**
OWNER & CO-OWNER
SULAIMANIYAH

Backspace offers a comprehensive software service tailored for restaurants in Iraq. Specializing in software solutions and accounting services, they support restaurants across the country in optimizing their operations and improving overall efficiency.



1,5891 USD IOM contribution

5,297 USD Business owner contribution



8 Total number of new workers



02

TUTELAGE

ONLINE ACADEMY FOR LANGUAGE COURSES



MEER ADIL JAMAL

OWNER
SULAYMANIYAH

Tutelage is an innovative online academy dedicated to offering language courses, catering to a vast community of language learners across Iraq. With a commitment to quality education, Tutelage aims to become the first authorized online institution for international TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) students. The academy provides a diverse range of language courses, creating a dynamic and engaging learning environment for thousands of students.



10,505 USD IOM contribution

2,068 USD Business owner contribution



7 Total number of new workers

03

DANYAR LAB

CUSTOM DESIGN SOLUTIONS

DANYAR TAHA MOHAMMED

FOUNDER
SULAYMANIYAH

The business focuses on producing hardware, software, and mechanical components catering to diverse technologies. Its sales approach is customer-driven, with a primary focus on fulfilling specific requests. Services encompass the creation of robots, development of computer programs, spare parts manufacturing, and device repair. The customer base primarily includes senior IT and mechanics students seeking unique programs or spare parts not readily accessible in Iraq. Moreover, companies in need of specialized components or programs frequently opt for their services. What distinguishes this project is its dedication to boosting the production of local brands within the country. While conventional practice involves importing mechanical and electronic spare parts from China, this business aims to shift that dynamic by locally providing these components.



14,800 USD IOM contribution

5,046 USD Business owner contribution



4 Total number of new workers

04

RIHLA

ONLINE TRAVEL AGENCY



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HUSSIEN NATIK FAHAL

FOUNDER
BAGHDAD

Rehla is a user-friendly online travel and tourism application, streamlining the booking of airline tickets, tourism programs, and hotel reservations. Providing a hassle-free experience, Rehla offers convenient payment options and seven-day-a-week customer support. In addition to facilitating seamless travel logistics, Rehla is committed to promoting local tourism. The platform develops unique and diverse tourism programs, encouraging travelers to explore and appreciate the culture, heritage, and natural beauty of their destination. The overarching goal is to enhance the overall travel experience while contributing to the growth of the local tourism industry.



20,000 USD IOM contribution

3,000 USD Business owner contribution



5 Total number of new workers

05

WISECART

E-COMMERCE PLATFORM



DANA AHMED YOUSIF

FOUNDER

SULAYMANIYAH

WiseCart is a cutting-edge e-marketing application for online shopping through video engagement. Utilizing longitudinal videos, WiseCart facilitates a seamless customer experience by assisting them in choosing desired products. Simultaneously, it empowers sellers to showcase their goods across Iraq, enhancing the visibility and accessibility of their offerings.



11,996 USD IOM contribution

1,500 USD Business owner contribution



3 Total number of new workers

06

KHAL CENTER

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

JIHAD ENAYAT ABDALKARIM

FOUNDER

SULAYMANIYAH

This initiative is dedicated to empowering and supporting individuals with disabilities, with a focus on the visually impaired, by leveraging technology and developing specialized electronic devices. The program also includes tailored technology courses designed to cater to various segments of society, with a particular emphasis on those with disabilities. The ultimate objective is to enhance their skills, address specific needs, and facilitate increased participation in the professional domain.



9,900 USD IOM contribution

2,000 USD Business owner contribution



4 Total number of new workers

07

ZHWEEN

ONLINE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



ZHWEEN SARKAR FATTAH

FOUNDER

ERBIL

Zhween.com is an educational website offering high-quality PDF educational materials for children aged 2 to 8 in Kurdish and English, with plans for Arabic expansion. Teachers and parents can download and print flashcards, worksheets, and activity papers directly from our site, addressing a scarcity in Kurdish resources. For those without printing capabilities, we offer printable files delivered with necessary stationery.



8,937 USD IOM contribution

3,853 USD Business owner contribution



4 Total number of new workers

08

GEOMATICA

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM



ALI HAMZAH HILAL

FOUNDER
BAGHDAD

Geomatica, established in late 2019, is a startup specializing in spatial data collection, processing, and analysis. Using cutting-edge drones, specialized sensors, and AI software, the company delivers precise and actionable geospatial insights. Geomatica serves governmental institutions and private companies, supporting them in making informed decisions and optimizing their operations through innovative spatial solutions.



15,000 USD IOM contribution

10,000 USD Business owner contribution



3 Total number of new workers

09

SAFIN CLUB

SUSTAINABLE LOCAL TOURISM



HERDY WAHID YOUSIF

FOUNDER

ERBIL

SafinClub, a premier outdoor adventure destination by Dukan Lake, offers a unique mix of water and land activities for various interests and skill levels. Kayaking is at the core of SafinClub, providing an adventurous yet serene exploration of the lake. Camping experiences, including floating huts for a magical overnight stay, offer exceptional immersion in nature. On land, hiking trails cater to both experienced trekkers and beginners, promising breathtaking views. Beyond physical adventure, SafinClub prioritizes mental and emotional well-being, providing a peaceful escape amidst the natural beauty of Dukan Lake. It truly stands out as an unparalleled outdoor experience.



30,000 USD IOM contribution

10,000 USD Business owner contribution



8 Total number of new workers

10

DIGITAL DINE MAX

DIGITAL MENU

ZHIRAN TAHA ABDALLA

FOUNDER

ERBIL

This business is focused on the development and design of digital menus for restaurants and cafes. With a proprietary system in place, they have successfully sold their solution to numerous establishments in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. Currently working on their own application, the business is poised for further growth and expansion. Their goal is to extend their reach and enhance their services, providing innovative digital menu solutions to a broader market beyond their current locations.



10,125 USD IOM contribution

4,881 USD Business owner contribution



4 Total number of new workers

11

MENTAL THERAPY

ONLINE MENTAL HEALTH PLATFORM



MIDIA ISMAIL ISSA

FOUNDER
DAHUK

M.Thery offers mental counseling sessions and psychotherapy for individuals facing challenging times, providing effective and flexible online sessions through the website. The platform connects users with trusted and highly qualified specialists. Additionally, M.Thery actively engages in various programs and activities to enhance mental health awareness.



12,000 USD IOM contribution

6,000 USD Business owner contribution



4 Total number of new workers

12

HAWSAR

VIRTUAL REALITY REAL ESTATE



AWS KHALDDON & SARA AL-RAMADANY
CO-FOUNDERS
BAGHDAD

Hawsar is a technology company specialized in construction and real estate applications. They provide an online platform that offers interactive 3D tours for apartments and properties before they are built. Prospective buyers can explore these spaces virtually before construction begins, accessing the tours online through any smart device, such as a phone or iPad.



16,000 USD IOM contribution

2,790 USD Business owner contribution



3 Total number of new workers

13

PROJECT ONE

ONLINE EDUCATIONAL PLATFORM

SARAH HAYDER ALAA ALDEEN

FOUNDER
BAGHDAD

They are developing an educational platform specialized in the fields of the job market to enhance the knowledge of recent graduates and ongoing students. They aim to expand the project to ensure the delivery of the highest quality and precision in these online courses.



13,860 USD IOM contribution

3,000 USD Business owner contribution



4 Total number of new workers

14

KARAMLASH BEEHIVES

MODERN BEEKEEPING



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AYSEN SAMEER UOSHEWH

FOUNDER

NINEWA

An agricultural project in the field of beekeeping, this innovative venture distinguishes itself from traditional apiaries in its methods of operation, production, and handling of bees. It offers educational services in modern beekeeping techniques, including the natural and artificial breeding of queen bees, bee venom, hive production, production of various types of natural honey, pollen, royal jelly, and beeswax. The project aims to contribute to the advancement of apiculture through contemporary practices and diverse product offerings.



20,000 USD IOM contribution

7,000 USD Business owner contribution



6 Total number of new workers

15

HILOL ABQARIYAH

PROPRIETARY AND CUSTOM
SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS

ABDULRAHMAN MOHANNED WAJEEH

FOUNDER
NINEWA

It is a software company driven by a team with over 8 years of collective expertise and operates across two pivotal domains. Primarily, they develop and market proprietary products, achieving over 70 successful sales in systems like hospital management and restaurant solutions and now developing ERP. Additionally, their specialization lies in delivering high-quality custom software solutions, having catered to 38 clients with over 30 mobile applications and 8 software systems.



9,400 USD IOM contribution

2,500 USD Business owner contribution



4 Total number of new workers



16

SWM APPLICATION

APP REPLACING MATERIALS
FOR ECO BENEFITS

ABDULLAH GHAZI ABOOD

FOUNDER
NINEWA

The electronic application for homes presents an innovative solution by replacing damaged tissues like plastic and cardboard in households for monetary compensation. This project has a dual focus: supporting medical services in the city and contributing to ecological sustainability. The project's strengths lie in introducing technology to streamline collective ecological efforts for employers and ensuring the quality and competitive pricing of plastic and cardboard materials.



16,000 USD IOM contribution

4,000 USD Business owner contribution



4 Total number of new workers



17

ALREEF MUSHROOM

INNOVATIVE FARM
RECYCLING WASTE

MOHAMMED JAMAL HAMID

FOUNDER
MOSUL



Our innovative farm focuses on recycling organic waste for premium organic mushrooms, utilizing closed farming systems like agricultural shelves. With an annual mushroom production exceeding 50 tons, we're expanding to establish a new production line for composted organic soil, primarily peat moss. Recycling waste from our mushroom cultivation will yield an estimated 200 tons of nutrient-rich soil annually. This strategic expansion aligns with our commitment to sustainability and growth, enhancing both our ecological footprint and product offerings.



28,900 USD IOM contribution

35,000 USD Business owner contribution



7 Total number of new workers

18

LYGO

WOMEN'S TAXI PLATFORM



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HAKAM HUSHAM ABED

FOUNDER
MOSUL

Lygo is the pioneering women's taxi platform in Mosul, prioritizing the safety and comfort of female passengers through innovative technology. Proud to lead the way in female taxi services in Iraq, LygoMosul is attuned to the distinct needs and preferences of its female clientele. Committed to delivering a secure and comfortable transportation experience, the service boasts a team of professional and licensed female drivers dedicated to providing exceptional service.



15,000 USD IOM contribution

8,000 USD Business owner contribution



5 Total number of new workers

19

PAREZAR

PLATFORM ENHANCING ACCESS IN LEGAL SERVICES

ANSAR OMAR ANWAR

FOUNDER

ERBIL

Parezar stands as a distinctive digital platform linking clients with lawyers, providing an extensive roster of legal professionals and prompt quote retrieval. Revenue is generated through monthly subscription fees for premium features and targeted advertising on the website and app. Serving legal firms, individual lawyers, and those in need of legal services, Parezar distinguishes itself with 24/7 chat support, automated contract creation, legal resource guidance, and AI-driven court case reminders. This model effectively addresses crucial voids in the legal services market, establishing Parezar as a unique and user-friendly solution for legal services.



13,540 USD IOM contribution

10,360 USD Business owner contribution



5 Total number of new workers

20

POWER INSIGHTS

COMMUNICATIONS AND
MARKETING AGENCY

LAWEEN FAIQ BASI

FOUNDER
ERBIL

The business is a comprehensive marketing agency that specializes in various multimedia services. Their expertise includes videography, marketing strategy development, promotion, professional photography, and social media management. This agency offers a one-stop solution for businesses looking to enhance their online presence and marketing efforts through visually appealing and strategic content across various platforms.



14,880 USD IOM contribution

7,593 USD Business owner contribution



6 Total number of new workers

21

LORK

HYDROPONIC FODDER

HANAR KAKI HASSAN

FOUNDER

SULAYMANIYAH

Lork will create a hydroponic system to produce organic feed. This innovative technology ensures the creation of nutrient-rich, organic feed for livestock. With a commitment to sustainability and quality, Lork is dedicated to revolutionizing the way feed is produced for a healthier and more responsible agricultural future.



10,000 USD IOM contribution

3,450 USD Business owner contribution



3 Total number of new workers

