

UNIDO-SCANIA

Partnering for employment and economic revival of Iraq's industrial manufacturing sector

THE CHALLENGE

Unemployment continues to be a serious issue for Iraqis, especially among youth, who represent around 78 percent of the population. The war in Iraq severely disrupted the local infrastructure, including numerous higher education and vocational training institutions. As a result, there remains a serious shortage of opportunities for individuals to develop their vocational and professional skills which, in turn, has led to a significant lack of heavy equipment mechanical maintenance personnel, sorely needed by modern industries. This situation is not only negatively affecting individuals and their families, it is also putting a constraint on the ability to service the industrial sector – stalling reconstruction and the recovery of the economy as a whole.

THE RESPONSE

UNIDO and Scania, a leading manufacturer of heavy trucks, buses and engines, have been strategic partners since 2011. Together with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Education First (EF) and the Kurdistan Regional Government Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), the partners established The Swedish Academy for Training, which was officially opened in April 2012.



Mr. Sinan Celebi, Minister of Trade and Industry, Kurdistan Regional Government, Mrs. Ewa Björling, Minister of Trade, Sweden, Ms. Asos Najib Abdullah, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Kurdistan Regional Government, Mr. Nawzzaad Hadi Mawlood, Governor of Erbil.

Located in Erbil, in the Kurdistan region of Iraq, the academy targets unemployed Iraqis under the age of 30, offering them a chance to develop relevant skills and to find professional employment. Simultaneously, the training facility aims to bolster Iraq's wider economic development, by addressing the serious shortage of skilled labour required by modern enterprises operating and expanding in the country today. The Swedish Academy for Training uses advanced and specialized training equipment and



BUSINESS PARTNER

Scania

WEBSITE

www.scania.com

INDUSTRY

Heavy Duty and Industrial Vehicles

PARTNERSHIP OBJECTIVE

To train and enhance the skills of local heavy equipment mechanics for Iraqi industry

RESULTS & OUTLOOK

- Swedish Academy for Training opened in April 2012
- Curriculum developed, training materials and equipment in place, first round of training complete
- Over 300 beneficiaries are trained annually, with 30% female participation in courses
- Graduates are supported in finding jobs within local industry

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Iraq

PARTNERSHIP CATEGORY

Core Business and Value Chain Partnerships

PROGRAMME PARTNERS

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
Kurdistan Regional Government Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA-KRG)
Education First (EF)

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is the only training facility of its kind in Iraq. Courses are offered not only in maintaining and operating heavy machinery, such as modern fleets of trucks, engines and agricultural equipment, but also in English language and computer literacy. In 2013, the programme will be extended to include after-sales support and business management. Although typically a male domain, the academy aims to achieve a 30% female participation. Women are actively encouraged to attend the technical and

managerial trainings, so that they are also well prepared for opportunities in the workplace. The academy aims to train at least 300 students a year. Training is delivered so that skills are transferable to various platforms. After graduation the academy will actively connect students with local companies in the region. This includes Scania which has a national dealership and maintenance centre in Erbil.

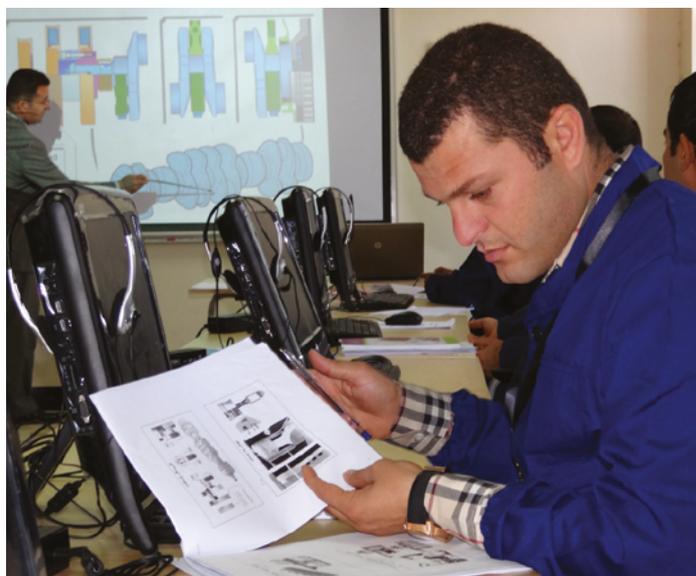
Leveraging its local network and implementation capacity, UNIDO oversees the project management, ensuring the smooth delivery and operation of the training facility. UNIDO also supervises day-to-day operations of the academy, in coordination with Ministry staff, to enhance the sustainability of the programme following the project's completion. Drawing on its extensive industry know-how and expertise, Scania is engaged in the joint development of the curriculum and training tools. The company also provides financial and in-kind contributions, including certified teachers and bespoke equipment for the training of service technicians.

THE BENEFITS OF PARTNERING

By engaging in joint activities, Scania and UNIDO are helping to ensure that a lack of skills does not limit or hamper industrial investment and are enabling Iraqi people to be better placed to take full advantage of the region's developing industries.

Through the partnership, UNIDO is able to leverage Scania's cutting edge industry knowledge and technology to enhance the effectiveness of the programme. The holistic approach to the establishment of the training facility promotes a symbiosis between industry and education, strengthening the sustainability of the programme. The technical input of Scania in the development of the curriculum helps ensure that the training provided by the Swedish Academy for Training remains marketable, and is focused on the needs of industry.

By investing in local training Scania is helping to develop the local value chain and strengthen economic development through better service provision of local enterprises. The academy will also serve as a base for recruitment of employees needed for the continued expansion of Scania's service and sales units in Iraq.



BUILDING ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION

After studying mechanics at the Mosul Technical Institute in northern Iraq, 29-year-old Ammar Akram worked as an apprentice in the Mosul industrial district, repairing cylinders and tractor grinders. However, as the security situation deteriorated after the invasion in 2003 and Mosul became a ghost city, Ammar Akram lost his job as his employer closed his workshop. Ammar Akram heard about the Swedish Academy for Training through his brother who works in Erbil. He is currently attending a 3 month training in basic mechanics, English language and IT and said the academy is his only hope to find a job.

“After graduation I would like to work at the Scania maintenance center. If that’s not possible I’ll work as a truck mechanic in Mosul.”

Ammar Akram, Swedish Academy for Training student



Zana Mustafa Rafiq, teacher at the Swedish Academy for Training, instructing students on the layout and operations of a Scania truck dashboard.