
Challenges Facing Higher Education in Iraq

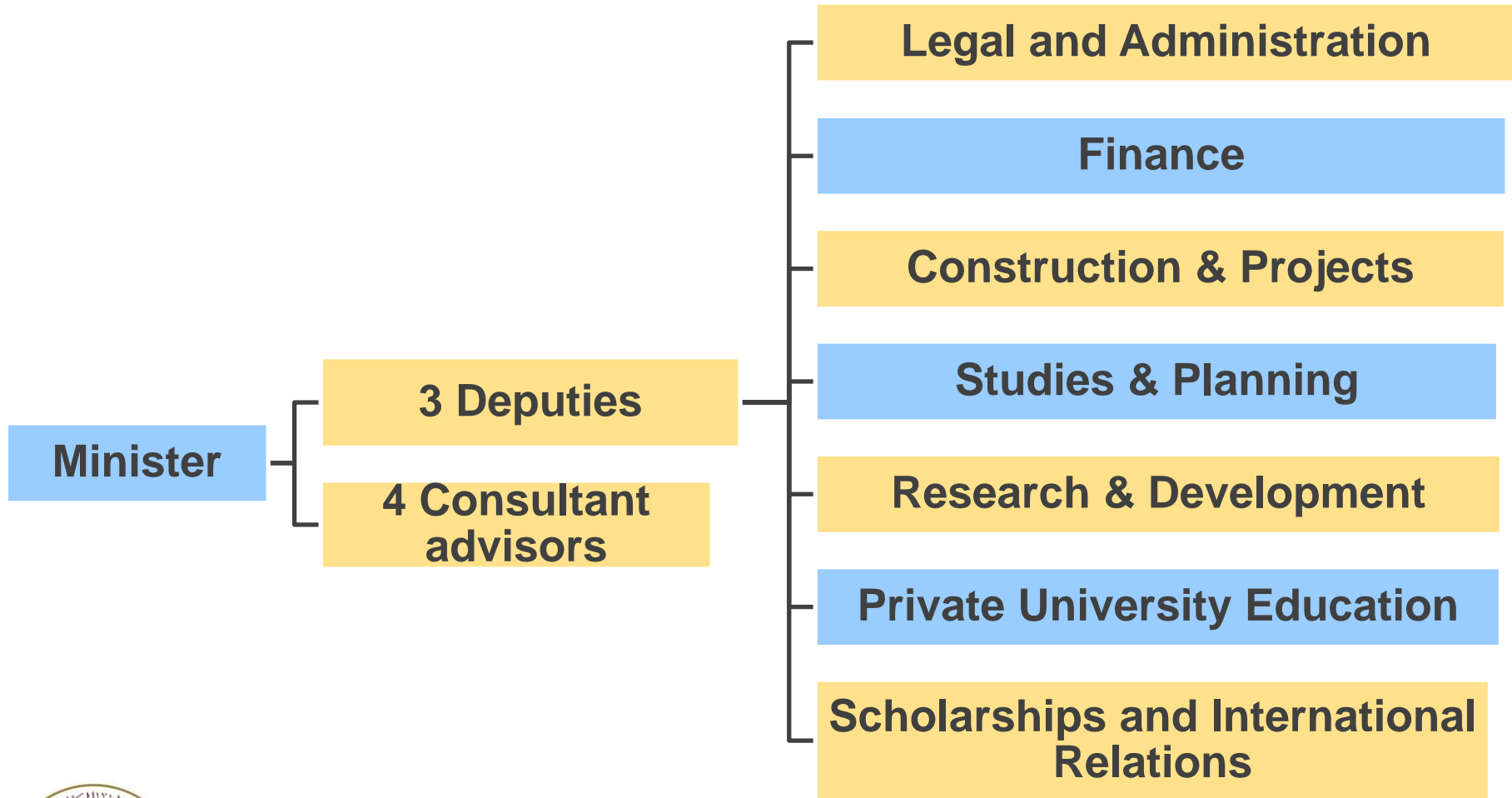
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(Iraq)

2018



Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research - The structure



Higher Education in Iraq

- **35** State Universities.
- **378** Colleges.
- **28** Institutes.
- Iraqi Commission for Computers Informatics.
- Iraqi Committee for Medical Specialties.
- **71** private colleges and universities.

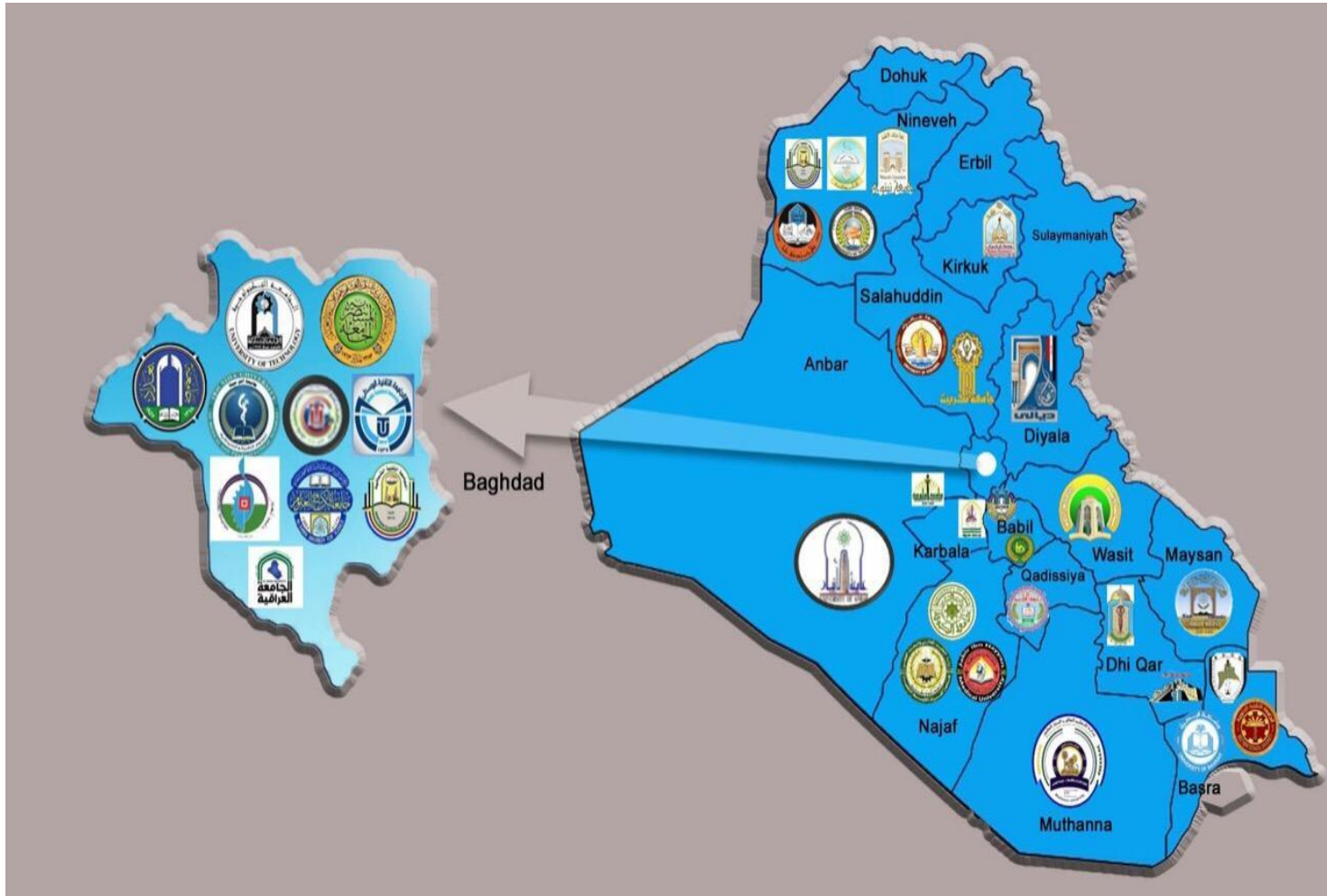


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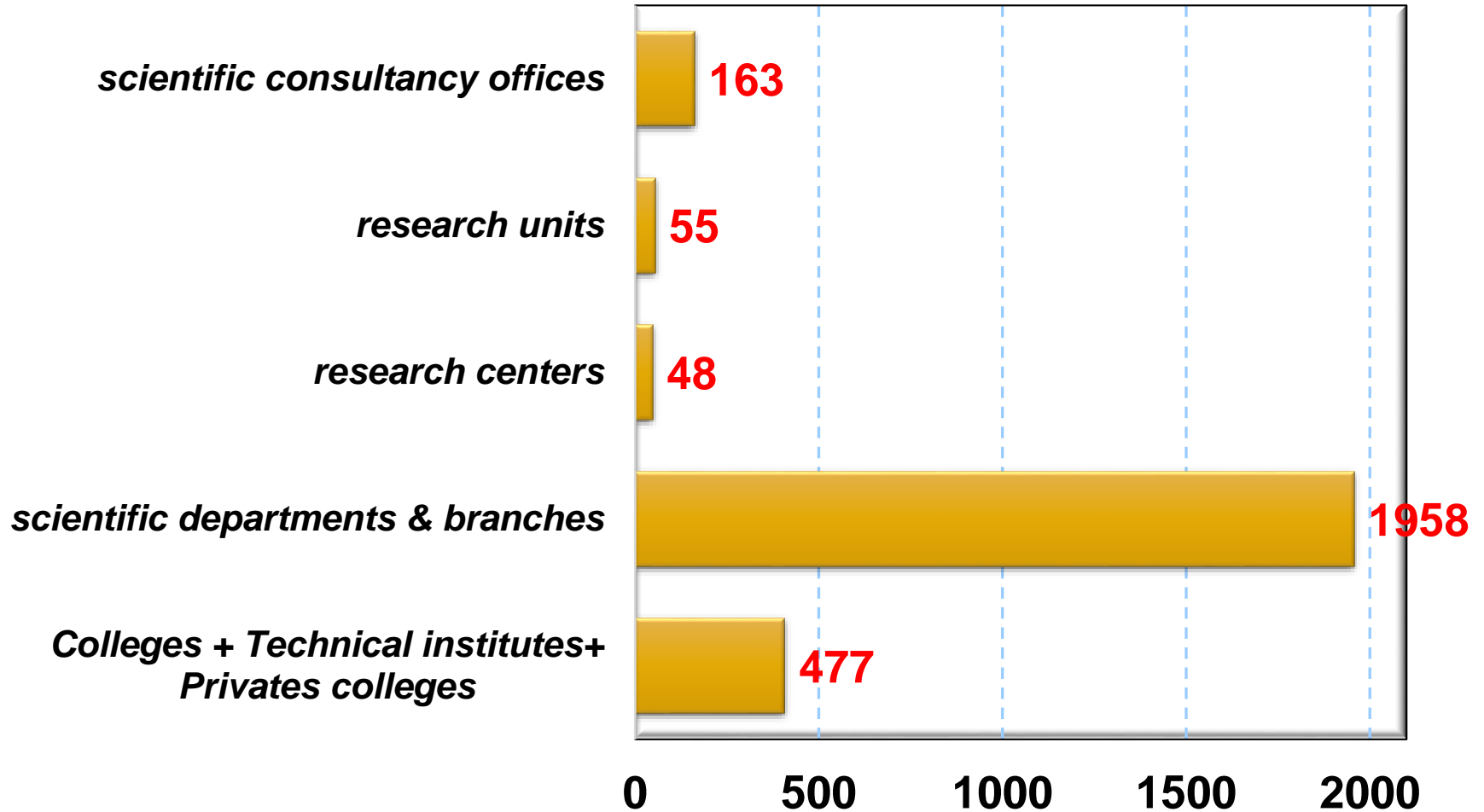
All of them are supervised by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in Iraq.



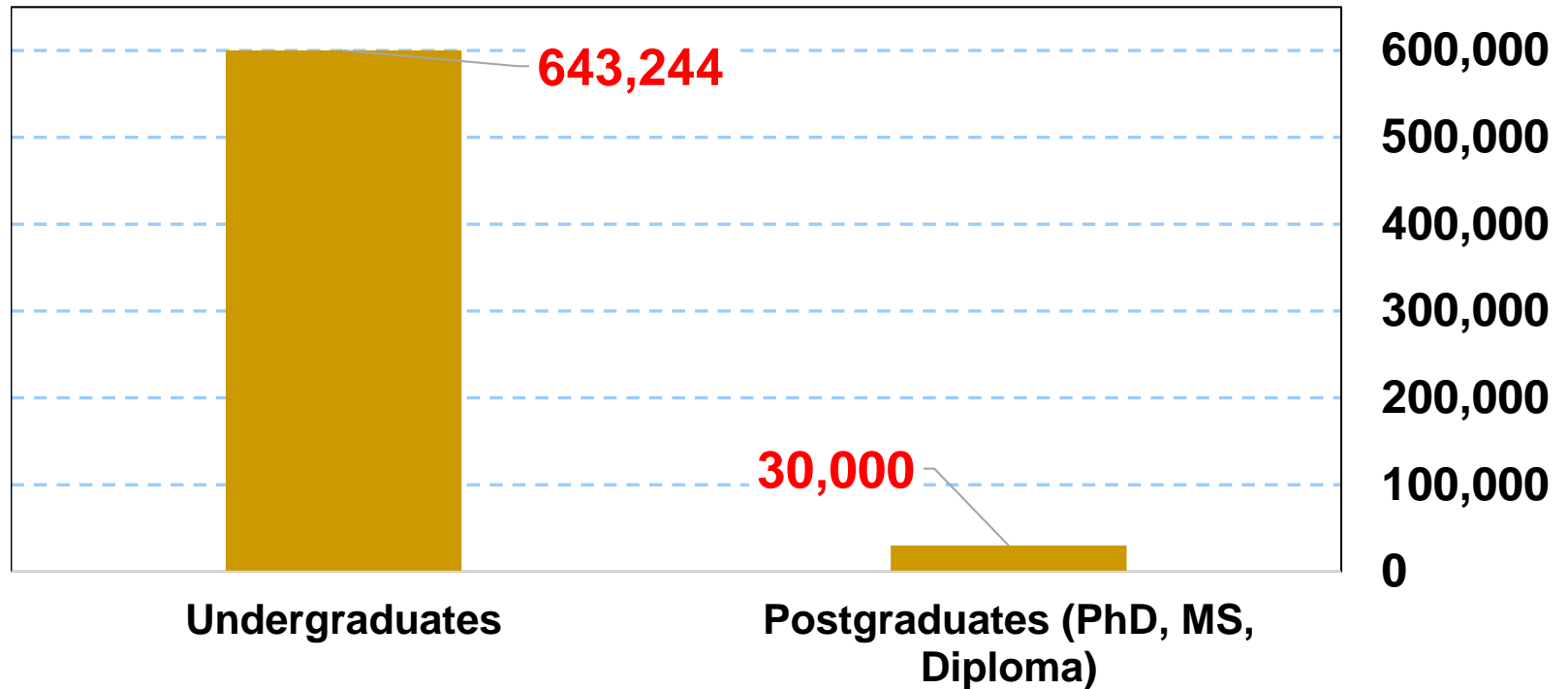
Higher Education in Iraq



Higher Education in Iraq



Currently Enrolled Students



About 47% of the students in Iraqi universities are female.



Iraqi Students Abroad

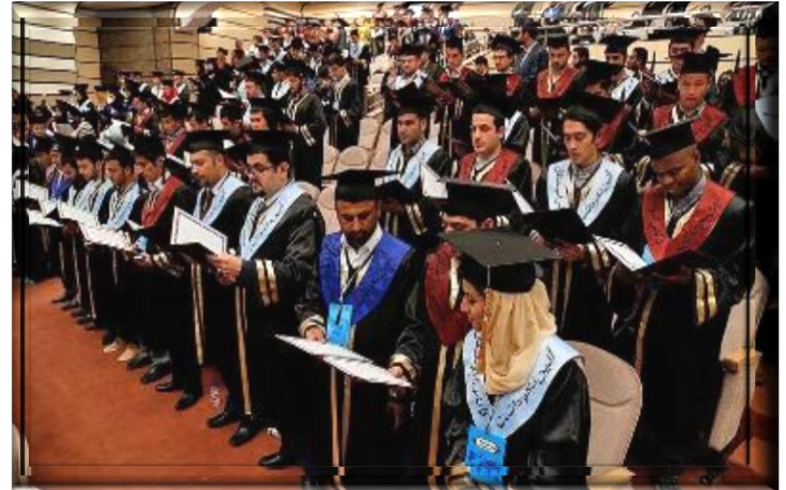


- 25,000 Iraqi students study abroad.
- 40% on full scholarships.
- Others may qualify for financial aids.
- MS & PhD: 78%
- Undergraduates: 22%



Iraqi College Graduates, Student Admissions and Enrollment 2017

- Number of undergraduate students graduated in 2017 is 130,000.
- Number of postgraduate students: 8,000.
- The number of undergraduate students admissions in college is 188,000.
 - Male 53%.
 - Female 47%.
- The enrollment rate (in reference to population) is 18.1% as of 2017.



Faculty



- Professors, assistant professors, lecturers and assistant lecturers are 43,457.
- Male 65%, Female 35%.
- The minimum qualification for teaching at the university level is MSc degrees.



Major Study Fields in Iraqi Universities Include

- Agriculture
- Arts
- Basic Sciences
- Business Administration
- Dentistry
- Economics
- Engineering
- Information Technology
- Islamic Sciences
- Law
- Linguistics
- Literature
- Medicine
- Nursing and Health Sciences
- Petrochemical
- Pharmacy
- Political Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Technology
- Tourism
- Veterinary Medicine



Issues Affected the Progress and Quality of Higher Education in Iraq

- Higher education in Iraq suffered from major setbacks and deteriorations during the sanction years, and later in 2003 suffered from destruction of the infrastructure.
- Recovery is steadily in progress though.
- The related issues which affected the Iraqi higher education negatively during the past years (1981-2004) are:



Issues Affected the Progress and Quality of Higher Education in Iraq

1. Most of the faculty hold degrees (MSc, PhD) from Iraqi universities and may lack proper up-to-date and state of the art training. Migration also affected the universities.
2. Most of the undergraduate laboratories are not equipped efficiently. Most of the classroom and science laboratories need rehabilitation and rebuilding.
3. High percentage of the libraries lack recent textbooks and scientific journals, especially the digital ones...



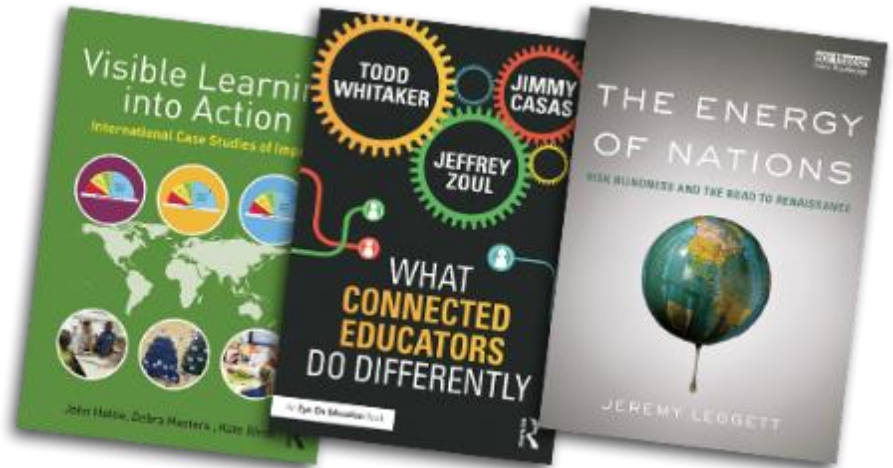
Issues Affected the Progress and Quality of Higher Education in Iraq

4. Most of the academic curriculum is lagging behind the international progress in curriculum development and the arts of teaching and education.
5. Research supplies and facilities are poor or not efficiently available.
6. Security issues affected the faculty and students transfer among the universities.
7. Funding constraints and allocating funds for research projects.
8. Inadequate student dormitories. Some of them are in poor conditions.



Issues Affected the Progress and Quality of Higher Education in Iraq

9. Inefficient administrative procedures. Bureaucracy and centralization are still in effect.
10. Limited student campus life and extracurricular activities.
11. Limited community services and continuing education programs.
12. Online publication of scientific journals.



Ministry Achievements

- Attracting Iraqi scholars from diaspora.
- Supervising research centers and units.
- Scholarships for PhD students to complete parts of their research projects.
- Scholarships for MSC and PhD degrees.
- Continuing education to serve the local community.
- Establishing Career Centers and Industrial Advisory Board.
- Establishing universities, colleges and scientific departments.



Ministry Achievements

- Faculty training.
- Laboratory rehabilitations.
- Iraqi Virtual Science Library.
- Curriculum development.
- Supervising scientific societies.
- Centralized students admission to universities.
- Establishing Data Center.
- Establishing Situation Room to deal with ISIS effects on universities.
- Destruction the remnants of chemical deposits.
- Releasing the project of One-Million-Tree.



ISIS Terrorism Occupation

- **8** Universities
 - Mosul
 - Tikrit
 - Al-Anbar
 - Ninevah
 - Telafar
 - Falluja
 - Al-Hamdania
 - Northern Technical

- **84** Colleges
- **113,000** Students
- **10,000** Faculty
- **9,000** Staff



ISIS Terrorism Occupation

- Departments were shuttered and properties scattered and looted.
- Laboratories damaged & looted.
- Office furniture and computers taken.
- Laboratory animals left to die.
- Farm animals stolen and sold.
- Buildings of the Universities were used to store weapons and ammunition or used to house ISIS members and their families.



ISIS Terrorism Occupation

Mosul University



ISIS Terrorism Occupation

Anbar University



Measures Taken Regarding the 8 Universities that Occupied by ISIS

Establishing a Situation Room to handle all issues of the universities, students, faculty & staff (2014-till now):

- Education on hold and any study under ISIS occupation is NOT recognized.
- Accommodate refugees in safe universities.
- Completing final exams in 2014 (60,000 students).
- Substitute Administration Campuses for the universities in Baghdad, Kirkuk, Duhok, and substitute departments and colleges were established too.
- Twinning programs with host universities.
- Waiving fees of evening studies.
- Secure housing and dormitories for students.



Current Situation (Post-ISIS) Education

- Returning of Tikrit University to original campus in Tikrit in 2016.
- Returning of Al-Anbar and Al-Falluja Universities to original campuses early 2017.
- The universities of Mosul, Ninevah, Telafar, Alhamdania and North. Techn. are gradually returning to original campuses since 2017, with great difficulties because of the extensive damage of the campuses and the cities including their infrastructures.



Current Situation (Post-ISIS) Education



- Action plans are under way to assess the extent of damage to the universities and how to rehabilitate them.
- The expected duration of rehabilitation may take many years depending on the extent of the damage and the availability of financial resources.

Future Prospects

- The development and progress of any society highly depend on local universities and their contribution to these processes. Universities are known as the sources of innovation, investments, plans and scientific achievements contributing to the performance of the society.
- Key natural resources such as agriculture, oil, minerals water resources and livestock are abundant in Iraq and universities contribute to their developments. Industrial production and tourism can be added to these too.
- All these sectors can in turn contribute to development of higher education by investing in it after identifying the most important and urgent needs of the society. The production sectors can recruit specialists in higher education in joint multiple business productivity & contracts.



Future Prospects

- University graduates participate in society development & advancement, e.g. in hospitals and dairy plants, iron and steel production, engineering consultancy in planning and construction, urban development, irrigation and drainage, agriculture, animal husbandry, disease surveys, etc.
- Improving market forces.
- Knowing the needs of the society.
- Solving problems facing the society.
- Continuous advancement & curriculum development.
- Decentralization plans.
- Sources of funds-Innovation needed
- Investments
- Faculty advanced training programs.



Action Plans and Measures to Reform Iraqi - Higher Educational System

- Improving curriculum and teaching methods.
- Faculty training.
- Improving the campus life of the faculty and students.
- Rehabilitation of classrooms, laboratories and libraries (Iraqi Virtual Science Library already done).



<https://www.ivsl.org/>

Action Plans and Measures to Reform Iraqi - Higher Educational System

- Capacity building: administrations & management.
- Improving funding efficiency.
- Continuing education programs for the community service.
- Up-to-date facilities & supplies for teaching & research.
- Supporting university print houses.
- Online journal publication.
- Academic freedom.
- Data Centers.
- Organizing international ties and collaborative scientific connections with well known universities in developed countries.



Thank You for listening

