

	digital connectivity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	energy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	transport	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	health, education and research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Migration <a href="#">@</a> (methodology for tagging under development)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Reduction of Inequalities <a href="#">@</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line (article, item): 14 02 01 30 NDICI Middle East and Central Asia Total estimated cost: EUR 1 000 000 Total amount of EU budget contribution: EUR 1 000 000			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Direct management through Grants			

## 1.2 Summary of the Action

Following two decades of conflict, but despite improved security conditions since the territorial defeat of Da'esh, Iraq (Upper Middle-Income Country with substantial resources) is still fragile and challenged by both internal and external political instability, economic instability, poor public service delivery and low institutional capacity. The Iraqi population in general, and in particular groups in vulnerable situations such as children, youth, women and displaced populations (refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees)<sup>1</sup> are affected by significant poverty and unemployment. Distrust in state institutions and the lack of basic services remain a threat to Iraq's social cohesion.

This Action intends to support access to quality education for girls. There are significant gender gaps in education in Iraq. As an example, only one in two girls complete primary education compared to three out of four boys. These gaps are accentuated with age. At age 13, only 40 percent of girls still attend school whilst 80 percent of boys do; and these gaps are even more striking for girls in rural areas, who begin to drop out of school at the age of nine, as well as displaced girls, girls pertaining to minorities and girls with disabilities. While almost all children (92%) are enrolled in primary school in Iraq, just over half of children from poorer backgrounds complete their primary education. The gap widens in upper secondary school, where less than a quarter of poor children graduate, compared to three-quarters of children from wealthier backgrounds.<sup>2</sup>

This Action aims at contributing to girls accessing and completing primary and lower secondary education. Mindful of the large EU programmes in support of the national reform process for access to quality basic education in partnership with Government institutions at federal and decentralised level, this Action provides for complementary partnerships with civil society for creating awareness for the importance of girls' education among communities, for promoting access to and completion of education with parents, and for the monitoring of education service provision by civil society. This engagement with communities is important in view of ensuring access to quality education for girls, reducing girls' dropout rates and discrimination of girls, as well as enabling girls' to seize their human right and constitutional right to education. The Action addresses key drivers of gender inequality in the country, using an integrated gender-transformative approach. The promotion of education for girls represents a strategic contribution to achieving gender equality and human capital development in Iraq as an integral part of implementing the national vision for a prosperous and developed Iraq. As an Action with gender as principal objectives (G2) and with the focus

<sup>1</sup> Please note that across this Action document the terms “displaced populations”, “displaced persons” and “displaced girls” always refer to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and (Syrian) refugees in line with the EU commitment of the Syria Conferences and EU commitment to the triple Nexus, as well as always refer to returnees from Europe and elsewhere in line with the commitment to supporting their integration.

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF (2018) 2018 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS6) Briefing