SCALING STORY 2020-2023 | MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Q3&4 2020 pre-design phase

- Key Informant Interviews (KII) conducted with local stakeholders to assess ECD needs in Iraq
- Government engagement plan developed by IRC
- Work with the General Directorate of Sports Education (GDSE) on School Readiness Program (SRP) was prioritized based on results of the KIIs

Q1 2021 design phase

- Co-design of pathway between IRC and MoE GDSE
- IRC-MOE expression of willingness to become strategic partners and advocate for increased funding for (SRP)

Q2 2021

- Approval for SRP by minister with condition of involving the proper directorates
- Consultant recruited for needs assessment
- Request of approval from cultural relations department shared

Q3 2021

- MoE approvals granted for SRP pilot
- IRC better understood the system and realized that the wrong directorate for SRP was approached (GDSE)
- Letter submitted to coordinate with different MOE directorates

Q4 2021 pilot phase

- SRP content reviewed by existing MoE committee and feedback sent
- Nurturing Care Framework for ECD workshop took place
- ToT and teacher training for pilot program conducted
- Content review committee under MOE developed
- Roll out plan for teacher training developed
- SRP pilot reached 119 schools
- IRC began work with the relevant directorates
- Issues between IRC and MOE directorates due to miscommunication
- Delays from MOE to provide

Q1 2022

- Report from SRP pilot implementation and design shared with the ministry
- Continuous communication with different directorates
- Minister confirms expanding the SRP nationwide
- MoE reached out to IRC to revise the KG1-KG2 curriculum as an additional intervention

Q2 2022

- All official approvals granted from MoE and directorate of NGOs
- MoE nominated new technical committee members
- Ministry granted initial verbal approval on SRP and KG1-KG2 curriculum

Q3 2022

- IRC communicated with MOE inability to review KG1-KG2 curriculum due to competing priorities
- MoE and IRC agreed on training 144 supervisors and 1800 teachers
- Coordination meeting between DG supervisor, curriculum development committee, and head of directorates
- ToT and teacher training conducted
- IRC decision to cover the expenses of cascade training
- Expansion plan approved
- Co-design meeting for revising the SRP content

Q4 2022 expansion phase

- Expansion of SRP in 1771 schools for two weeks across 15 governorates
- Recommendations to include SRP in national plan shared verbally by the minister
- Reflection meeting between IRC and MoE conducted

Q1 2023

- MOE and IRC reviewed the AS stories to be used and disseminated by MOE as well as integrated into the existing curriculum
- Minster of Education ratified the recommendations of the reflection meeting of the SRP and approved including the program in the MOE calendar and national plans

Q2 2023

- IRC and technical committee met to plan for the expansion of the SRP and explore future interventions for MOE to support ECD
- SRP opened new entry points for IRC in early grades in primary school, such as designing play-based learning with General Directorate of Curriculum
- IRC-MOE held a kick-off meeting for the play-based curriculum initiative

Q3 2023

- 29 curriculum developers were trained in learning the through play approach.
- IRC-MOE online workshop conducted with curriculum developers to discuss 90 activities developed. This will be followed by a workshop in Q4 to finalize activities and compile them into a handbook.

This tells the story of the evolution of the MOE pathway in Iraq from 2020 to 2023

Main drivers: Governance and coordination | Local needs | Policy implementation | Long-term financing