

Co-operative Planning for Climate Change Disasters

Working with national and local government to plan for climate-related risks and build resilience

13.3.3

Co-operative Planning for Climate Change Disasters

Does the university participate in co-operative planning for climate change disasters, working with government?

Our approach

For Iraq, climate change is not a distant prospect but a present emergency. Extreme heat, prolonged drought, falling river levels, groundwater depletion, dust storms and sudden flooding place growing strain on public services and on the communities of the Middle Euphrates. Planning for these hazards requires government, academia and civil society to work from a shared evidence base.

Al-Mustaqbal University works alongside the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Water Resources, Babylon Governorate Council and the Governorate's service directorates to plan for climate-related risks. Through its Sustainable Development Division, the University contributes expertise to national and local climate plans, supplies planning evidence to local authorities, and convenes forums where officials and researchers develop joint responses.

The evidence that follows sets out the University's principal co-operative planning activities with government, together with the partnerships that support them.

Evidence at a glance

#	INITIATIVE	CLIMATE FOCUS
01	**Local NDCs for Babil and Dhi Qar**	Ministry of Environment, local government
02	**Iraq's national NDC workshop**	National climate commitments
03	**Future Sustainability Charter**	Four Babylon government bodies
04	**Water Security Forum**	Ministry of Water Resources
05	**Spatial Development Gaps Report**	Babylon Governorate Council
06	**UNESCO Greening Education Partnership**	Climate-ready education

Local Climate Plans for Babil and Dhi Qar

The University took part in the conference launching the Local Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) document on climate action for Babil and Dhi Qar Governorates, held with the Minister of Environment, representatives of local government, international organisations and donors. Local NDCs translate Iraq's national climate commitments into governorate-level plans for adaptation and mitigation.

Representing the University, the Director of the Sustainable Development Division set out the role of higher education in local climate planning and proposed a funded climate research project that links academic work directly to local needs. The proposal includes remote sensing and GIS to monitor climate risks, the use of the campus as a living laboratory for sustainability, and applied work on clean energy, water conservation, waste management and smart agriculture, together with closer co-operation between universities, local government and donors.





Shaping Iraq's National Climate Commitments

The University participated in a workshop on developing Iraq's Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement, held at the College of Science for Women, University of Babylon, with climate and sustainable-development organisations. The workshop examined adaptation and mitigation policies and the points at which they reinforce each other.

The University presented higher education as a working partner in national climate action, through research, sustainable technologies, green campus practice and the development of student skills, in line with its commitment to stronger partnerships with local government, the private sector and civil society.





The Future Sustainability Charter

The University signed the Future Sustainability Charter with key government and service bodies in Babylon Governorate: the Babylon Investment Commission, the Babylon Health Directorate, the Babylon Environment Directorate and the Urban Planning Directorate. The charter establishes a framework for joint work on sustainability, smart transformation, emissions reduction and social responsibility.

By bringing the agencies responsible for public health, environmental protection, investment and urban planning into one framework with the University, the charter creates a standing channel for co-ordinated planning on climate-related risks, from heat and pollution that threaten public health to resilient urban development.





Water Security in a Changing Climate

Water scarcity is Iraq's most acute climate risk. The University's College of Science convened a specialist forum on water security and groundwater management with the General Commission for Groundwater and the Planning Department of the Ministry of Water Resources, the Babylon Water Resources Directorate, academics and representatives of government institutions.

The forum assessed the state of Iraq's water resources under climate pressure and rising demand, and set out priorities for long-term water security: regulating groundwater use within legal frameworks, preventing over-exploitation, strengthening water governance, strategic planning for Babylon Governorate, and closer co-operation between universities and government.





Planning Evidence for Babylon Governorate Council

The University prepared and submitted the Spatial Development Gaps Report for Babil Governorate to the Governorate Council as a guide for development policy. The report identifies disparities between administrative units, giving local decision-makers an evidence base for directing investment to the communities that are most vulnerable.

The initiative gives local authorities scientific and planning support so that development plans rest on sound evidence, a foundation for building resilience to climate-related pressures. The Council formally recognised the University's contribution to serving the community.



Al-Mustaqbal University

UNESCO Greening Education Partnership

The University joined UNESCO's Greening Education Partnership as an official partner. The Partnership brings governments and education institutions together to prepare learners and education systems to respond to the climate crisis, and membership commits the University to integrating climate action and sustainability across teaching and learning.

Around a third (33%) of the University's course content is now linked to the SDGs, with climate action the largest single focus, and the University plans to raise this share in the coming years.





OUR COMMITMENT

Through these partnerships the University has become a recognised partner of government in climate planning, contributing to national and local climate commitments, supplying planning evidence to Babylon's authorities and convening the agencies responsible for water, health, environment and urban development. It will continue to place its research and expertise at the service of a more resilient Babylon and Iraq.

AL-MUSTAQBAL UNIVERSITY

Towards a Sustainable University