



WORLD BANK EDUCATION SECTOR SUPPORT TO IRAQ

May 2020

A learning crisis in Iraq further exacerbated by the fiscal, social and health crises

The limited data available points at very low learning and skills levels conveyed by the education system across all levels. COVID -19 has led to school closures for more than 3 months so far, with an estimated loss of 0.6 in learning adjusted years of schooling from an already low baseline of 4 years.

Early Childhood Education

- only 13% of children aged 3-4 years old are developmentally on track.*

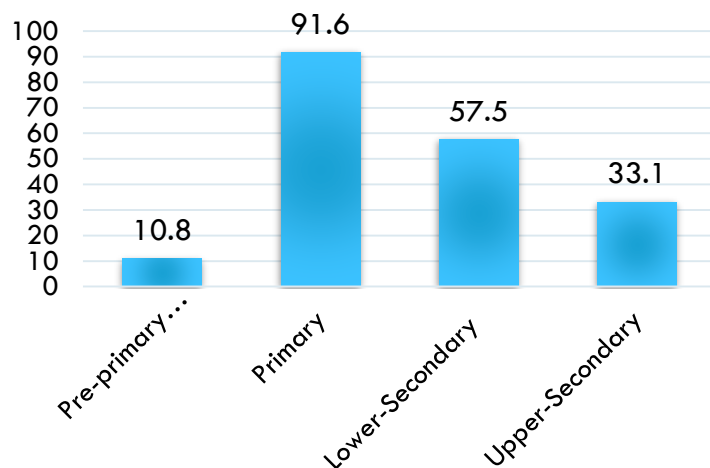
Primary Education

- Low learning outcomes (EGRA), low time on task and double shifts

Lower Secondary Education

- large repetition rates (almost 1/3 of children attending secondary school are over-aged)
- large drop-out rates (21% of children of secondary school age are out of school)

Low attendance rates except in primary school



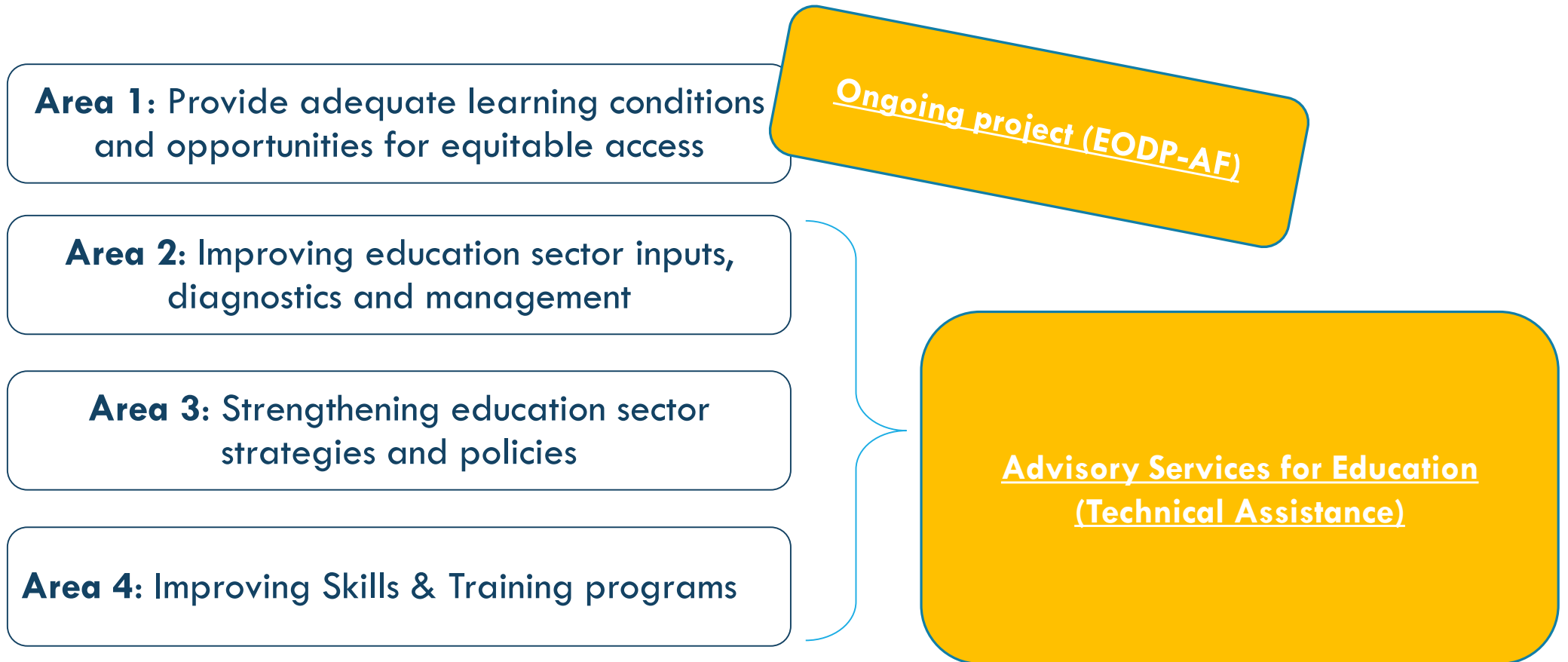
Poor labor market outcomes

- one of the lowest labor force participation rates in the world (below 50%)
- Youth unemployment rate at 17% (30% women)

Upper secondary & tertiary education

- only 50% of youth, aged 15-24 years, are literate
- Number of TEI doubled from 2003-2018, yet large skills mismatch pertains.

World Bank support to Iraq addressing *most urgent* and *technical support* needs by GOI



Area 1: Provide adequate learning conditions and opportunities for equitable access

Current project (EODP)

To address the most urgent needs

Area #1: Reconstruction of 26 schools in the most affected governorates

Area #2: Provide urgently needed **teacher training support** to improve (1) early literacy & numeracy and (2) psychosocial support, also to school counselors

Area #3: Mobile Data collection platform for **fast and simple education data**, which will complement the EMIS currently being developed

Area 2: Improve Improved education sector inputs, diagnostics and management

Advisory Services for
Education

Challenge #1: Need to understand the source and extent of bottlenecks for schools to deliver high quality education in schools

→ Deliverable: Measures education service delivery at the school & how it can be improved (SDI)

Challenge #2: No coherent system or platform to quickly collect data on the education sector (EMIS takes time) and address the most pressing needs (construction & teachers where they are most needed)

→ Deliverable: Develop simple mobile data collection platform, use data to better target school construction & teacher allocation

Challenge #3: Need to understand if public spending is efficient, where it is most needed and how it can be better targeted

→ Deliverable: Public Expenditure Review to determine policy options

Area 3: Strengthened education sector strategies and policies

Challenge #1: Need for a National Education Strategy with a clear vision and goals to lay the foundation for all education policies

→ Deliverable: National Education Strategy already being developed with GOI/UNESCO, WB to support

Challenge #2: Learning starts early and learning gaps linger on → need for an Early Childhood Development Strategy

→ Deliverable: Early Childhood Education Strategy already being developed with GOI/UNICEF, WB to support

Area 4: Improving Skills & Training programs

Advisory Services for
Education

Challenge #1: High youth unemployment rates and feedback from employers that employees lack important skills. There is a need for innovative approaches that will increase access to employment opportunities for all Iraqi's (youth, women, IDP's)

→ See next slide

Skilling up Mashreq Initiative - Skills Development in Iraq

The Competitive Fund Pilot for Tertiary Education (TE) in Iraq

- ❖ The program aims to foster innovation in TE through productive linkages between tertiary education institutions (TEIs) and businesses.
- ❖ These linkages will promote social responsibility among the business community and better prepare graduates to find and keep employment in their prospective-technical areas.

**35 Public and 1 Private
Higher Education
Institutions participating
in the first round
A second round is
launched and linked to
COVID-19**



**1 Committee established
that includes public-private
partnerships**



**Capacity Building Approach
and Graduate Employability
Interventions targeted**

