

Initiatives to Involve Women in Environmentally Friendly Economic Projects that Promote Sustainable Development in Iraq

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Abstract

Women have an important role in developing the economic sector around the world in general and Iraq in particular. Women have an important role in promoting the path of sustainable development and in building a next generation capable of creating decent work and developing other economic sectors. The research problem was crystallized by asking: What are the most important initiatives for economic projects that have participated? Where is the woman? To what extent are women empowered and what is their role in promoting sustainable development goals? The aim of the research was to know the extent of women's empowerment and their role in environmentally friendly economic projects that enhance the path of sustainable development in Iraq, and to highlight the most important initiatives undertaken by the Central Bank of Iraq, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, and the national strategy, and to update the weaknesses and strengths in economic projects that diminished the status of women. As for the research hypothesis, women play an important role in achieving the dimensions of sustainable development through financing and opportunities, while the most important conclusions were the weakness of the role of Iraqi women in the field of environmentally friendly economic projects, and if they exist, they are not at the level of ambition. The most important recommendations were to contain unemployment rates among Women in the government sector and the private sector through enhanced job opportunities for production and productivity and environmental, social and legal protection systems for women.

Keywords: Empowering Women, Economic Projects, Sustainable Development, Government Initiatives

Introduction

Projects are one of the means of developing societies. They also help put ideas into practice and invest resources optimally. Many concepts related to economic projects have been presented, and it was noted that most of them agreed on the unity of the organizational form of the project in using production elements and resources and exploiting a certain size of economic resources, which is the smallest unit. Productivity can be planned, analyzed and implemented in an independent manner from other units, so that if one of its parts is lacking, the project will stop working. The economic capacity available for the purpose of producing a good or service with the aim of achieving economic returns and thus achieving sustainable development. Therefore, economic projects are considered the opening in building the country and the main outlook that countries look at. Especially investors, therefore it is seen that economic projects are the main basis in budgets to meet the needs of the people in achieving their desires and achieving economic stability. The research began from three axes. The first axis included an introduction and research methodology. The second axis was the theoretical

framework of the variables, while the third axis included the analytical aspect to enable. Women economically in Iraq through government initiatives.

Research Problem

It lies in the following question; (1) What are the most important initiatives related to environmentally friendly economic projects in which women participated?; (2) To what extent is it possible to empower women and what is their role in promoting sustainable development goals?

Research Objectives

The research achieves three objectives; (1) Statement of government initiatives in the field of supporting women and their economic empowerment in Iraq; (2) Knowing the extent of the possibility of empowering women and their role in environmentally friendly economic projects that enhance the path of sustainable development in Iraq; (3) Identify the main points addressed by the National Strategy for Women in Iraq for the period 2023-2030.

Importance of Research: It highlights the most important environmentally friendly economic projects that support sustainable development goals, as well as the amounts granted to Iraqi women from 2003-2022, what are the government measures to support women, and what are the future challenges they face.

Research hypothesis: The research hypothesis follows: Women have an important role in achieving the dimensions of sustainable development through their empowerment and participation in environmentally friendly economic projects.

The Temporal And Spatial Sample of the Research: The temporal sample represented the period from 2003-2022, while the spatial sample was the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, the Central Bank of Iraq, and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Research structure: The research included three axes; (1) The first axis: Introduction and research methodology; (2) The second axis: The theoretical framework of the variables; (3) The third axis: The analytical framework for financing initiatives for women from the economic aspect.

Economic Projects

The project is intended from an economic standpoint, i.e. An organization that works on production and exchange, or aims to circulate money, goods, and services with the aim of obtaining profits and financial returns. An economic project is also defined as an activity or group of interconnected and coordinated activities that seeks to obtain certain returns or benefit through (Kazem, 2022). It is also known as a specific idea to use some economic resources in a specific way and for a specific period to reach a specific goal or several goals, provided that the revenues or benefits of the project exceed the costs of establishing and operating it. Therefore, the process of planning and implementing the project (the life cycle of the project) goes through the following stages (Nabil, 2011); (1) Identify investment opportunities and conduct preliminary studies; (2) Technical preparation of the project, i.e. preparing technical and economic feasibility studies; (3) Evaluating and comparing the project with other alternatives; (4) Engineering design of the project; (5) Making financing and investment decisions and preparing for implementation; (6) Project implementation and operation; (7) Follow up and evaluate performance.

Elements of the Economic Project

The most important elements of the economic project are the following (Shamlawy, 2019); (1) An investment activity that involves a group of activities and leads to the existence of products.

It appears as an opportunity and quickly turns into a technically and economically distinct idea; (2) The organizer or manager who undertakes the task of combining the elements of production; (3) The market in which production is disposed of, in other words, the demand for the project's products; (4) Profit or return on investment is a primary goal for establishing the project, and the return here includes both financial and social returns; (5) The other element included in the project is its relative independence so that the project has a legal personality; (6) Risk: There is always a certain degree of risk when choosing any economic project. The project may bear the wind or loss resulting from its activity; (7) Opportunity cost is the cost of anything estimated at the best alternative or gain that is given up.

Empowering Women Economically

Women's empowerment is known as empowerment. The power over women is to have a voice and to have the ability to analyze, innovate, and participate in various decisions affecting society as a whole, and to be respected as equal citizens and have contributions at all levels and realize their value within the family and society (Madhboub, 2023). As for the economic empowerment of women, it is considered one of the most important main pillars targeted by the policy to empower women, in addition to being a major human right approved by international human rights conventions and conventions. It comes in the context of women's rights, equality, social justice, and achieving the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Plan, especially in its goals (eliminating poverty). And (gender equality) and (decent work and economic growth), and that women's effective contribution to economic activity is an important factor for the advancement of societies' economies and sustainable development and guarantees a better life for women, men and society as a whole, and economic empowerment is the basis for providing a decent living for women and their gateway to achieving independence and the ability to Decision making, as it is in the interest of the family as a whole in terms of improving the quality of life and enhancing well-being. Therefore, from a broad perspective, the economic empowerment of women cannot be linked to the human rights dimension. Rather, it has become an important factor in the economic growth of countries, as it leaves its impact in empowering women in various aspects. In turn, it contributes to increasing levels of national income, reducing poverty, and reducing economic inequalities. The weak economic growth and economic structural problems that less developed countries suffer from are due, in one of their most important causes, to the weak contribution of women to development as a result of the discrimination that women suffer in society. In 1995, in Clauses 26 and 35, Beijing referred to the economic independence of women, including providing them with job opportunities, eliminating the continuing and increasing burden of poverty on women by addressing the structural causes of poverty by making changes in economic structures (Republic of Iraq, 2023). Ensuring equal access for all women, including rural women, as they are vital players in the development process, including land, credit, science and technology, vocational training, information and communications, and markets, as a means of increasing the advancement and empowerment of women and girls by enhancing their abilities to reap the benefits of access. Equal access to these resources through international cooperation, among other means.

Dimensions of Women's Economic Empowerment

The economic dimensions of women are as follows (Republic of Iraq, 2023); (1) Increased rates of participation of women and girls of working age in economic activity and expanded job opportunities for them; (2) Reducing the unemployment rate among women of working age; (3) Eliminate all types of discrimination based on gender in providing job opportunities and access to resources and financing; (4) Creating a suitable work environment for women

and girls and providing legal protection while working; (5) Enhancing women's ability to manage commercial projects and supporting women entrepreneurs.

The Relationship Between the Environment and Women

The phenomena of climate change lead to the death of women more than men due to differences manifested in the level of social and economic conditions and access to information. Pregnant and breastfeeding women are also exposed to food insecurity resulting from climate change, and more salty drinking water due to rising sea levels may cause premature births and deaths. Mothers and newborn children. The economic pressure resulting from disasters and climate change can lead to cases of child marriage, early marriage, and forced marriage, and the overwhelming risks that threaten the land, water, organisms, and livelihoods greatly affect women who work on the land to support their families, and women's environmental awareness must be raised. Because women have an essential role to play in sound environmental education and protect family members from the impact of potential harmful environmental factors, which reduces the incidence of health and psychological diseases. Therefore, focusing on the role of women and urging them to actively participate in environmental awareness activities and programs will have a positive impact in reducing environmental pollution. Floods or severe droughts can lead to violence against women and girls. Women represent 75% of those displaced due to natural disasters, and girls are often the first to leave school to help their families in such circumstances, which indirectly affects gender equality in Access to education, deepens women's problems in general (Iraqi Ministry of Planning, 2023). This requires more fairness in the international response to address the worst effects of climate change and adapt to it. When a woman assumes the head of the family, she is responsible for direct contact with the environment, as she is the person responsible for the procedures of family matters. The rural woman bears a greater burden than the urban woman, so she is responsible for Delivery of water and proximity to sources of water pollution, in addition to the fact that they suffer from living in harsh housing conditions that do not meet sanitary conditions and lack many services. Likewise, Ahwari women must be empowered to confront cases of desertification and emphasize the preservation of traditional practices. As for children, they are the group least responsible for Climate change measures, but they bear the brunt of its effects. Drought and changes in rainfall patterns may lead to crop failure and increased food prices, which means food insecurity and food deprivation for the poor, especially children. This may lead to lifelong impacts in addition to the destruction of livelihoods, increased migration and conflicts. Curbing opportunities for children and adolescents. Vulnerable children face a greater risk, as the poorest families face greater difficulty in withstanding shocks. The most vulnerable children are losing their homes, health, and education as a result of climate change, which makes recovering from them more difficult.

Sixth: The concept of sustainable development: Sustainable development is defined as the process that recognizes the necessity of achieving economic growth that is compatible with the capabilities of the environment, on the basis that economic development and environmental preservation are complementary and not contradictory processes (Al-Arbawi, 2022). It is also known as the process that seeks to achieve optimal exploitation of available and potential natural and human resources to meet the needs of members of society, as well as cultural transformation for the purpose of improving society in all economic, social, environmental and technological aspects. The emergence of sustainable development came as a culmination of global, political and legal efforts.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Agenda was adopted, starting from the year 2015 until 2030, an integrated development plan with 17 goals to eradicate poverty, address climate change,

combat gender inequality, and address many of the levels that countries committed to but were unable to achieve by the year 2015 as planned. In the Millennium Development Goals agenda, this report focused primarily on knowing the limits of these development levels and the unstable conditions caused by poverty, unemployment, inequality, disease outbreaks, and the increasing number of displaced people. Table (1) shows the most important sustainable development goals.

Table 1. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2015-2030

Seq.	Goal
1.	Eliminate poverty in all its forms and everywhere.
2.	End hunger, provide food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
3.	Ensuring that everyone enjoys healthy lifestyles for all ages.
4.	Ensuring equitable and comprehensive quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5.	Achieving gender equality.
6.	Ensuring the availability of water and sanitation services for all.
7.	Ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable modern energy services.
8.	Promoting sustained, comprehensive and sustainable economic growth for all, and providing decent work for all.
9.	Establishing resilient infrastructure and encouraging innovation.
10.	Reducing inequality within and between countries.
11.	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
12.	Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13.	Take urgent action to address climate change and its effects.
14.	Preserving and protecting oceans, seas and marine resources.
15.	Protecting terrestrial ecosystems and using them sustainably, managing forests and combating desertification.
16.	Encouraging the establishment of peaceful societies in which no one is marginalized in order to achieve sustainable development.
17.	Strengthening the global partnership on finance for sustainable development.

Source: General Assembly, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, (2015), Seventieth Session, Agenda Items 15 and 116, October 21, United Nations, p. 12.

Economic initiatives to empower Iraqi women

Requirements for the economic empowerment of Iraqi women (Republic of Iraq, 2023); (1) Strategic planning to reduce poverty and unemployment, especially among women; (2) Adopting an economic planning policy to integrate women into business; (3) The legal and procedural frameworks between men and women in economic work are responsive to gender standards; (4) Work to support and develop the private sector and organize it to motivate women to engage in work in this sector; (5) Establishing systems and procedures to facilitate women's access to the resources and financing necessary to support projects managed by women; (6) Working to support women in the countryside, raise their efficiency in economic work, and develop agricultural projects; (7) Work to develop women's skills and build their capabilities to manage commercial projects, market information, and access to resources and financing.

Table 2. General indicators about the economic reality of Iraqi women

Indicator	Data
Number of population and qualitative composition of the population	Increase in population from (38.1) million people in 2018 to (42.1) million people in 2022, as females constituted (49%) and males (51%) of the total population in 2018, and the percentage of females of the total population increased to (49.4). %) compared to (51.7%) in 2022.
Ecological distribution of population	The percentage of the population in urban areas reached (71.9%) and in rural areas the percentage reached (32.1%) according to estimates for the year 2022. Within this distribution, the estimates reveal that a percentage of (71.9%) of the total females in Iraq live in urban areas, and (33%) live in Their total is in rural areas, a percentage that closely matches 2018 estimates.
Average family members: Percentage of families headed by a woman	The number of family members in Iraq reached (6) individuals, in urban areas (6.8%), and in rural areas (6.9%) according to 2022 estimates. The percentage of women who head families reached (11.9%) in Iraq, and in the countryside their percentage reached (8.6). %) and urban (12.6%) according to 2022 data.
Demographics in terms of labor force	The number of people under the age of 15 years reached (15,833,657) million people, which constitutes (40%) of the total population of Iraq, according to estimates in 2019. The percentage of males among them is (52%) and the percentage of females is (48%). As for the population In the working age for ages (15-65), it reached (22,090,972) million people, representing 57% of the total population of Iraq, and the percentage of males among them reached 50%, as well as females, while the number of people of working age in the year 2022 reached (24,255,554), which is This constitutes 58.2% of the total population. Males constitute 50%, while women constitute 49.9% of the workforce.
Age support	The age dependency ratio was (77.1%), meaning that every 100 people of working age (15-64) supported 77 people from the population outside the labor force (i.e. the population under the age of 15 + the population aged 65 years and over) according

	to 2017 estimates, and the rate was Dependency for males is 79% and the dependency rate for females is 75.3%. The age dependency ratio increased in 2019 by 78.7%, meaning that every 100 people of working age support 78 people from the population who are outside the labor force.
Education and economic activity rate	The rate of economic activity in Iraq reached (42.8%) among those of working age, according to estimates from the Iraq Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation Survey for the year 2017. The percentage of males among them was 72.7% in urban areas, and in rural areas it was 74.1%, and females were 12.6%, in urban areas 13.9% and rural areas were 8.6%. The percentages were The highest percentage of economically active people with a diploma reached 82.4%, the percentage of males was 92.5% and the percentage of females was 69.0%.
The unemployment	The unemployment rate in Iraq was 13.8% among those of working age, according to the report of the Poverty Monitoring and Evaluation Survey in Iraq, and the percentage of males among them constituted 10.9%, while the percentage of females was higher than males, more than double, amounting to 31.0%.

Republic of Iraq, General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers, National Strategy for Iraqi Women (2023-2030), Women's Empowerment Department, p. 27.

Gender equality and women's empowerment in the Fund's project portfolio

The Fund has made gender equality and women's empowerment a priority in its project portfolio, in line with the Government of Iraq and partners. The adopted two-pronged approach also contributes to assessing different impacts by gender and identifying gender gaps to provide better information for programs in Iraq. Special attention was given to gender equality and women's empowerment in the projects that were already active, and in the planned and new projects, and then the Fund's secretariat updated its report to include a special section on gender equality and women's empowerment for each project, with the aim of determining the contribution of each activity to this complex topic. In 2022 The Fund provided its support, directly or indirectly, to make progress in women's empowerment through most of the projects within the Fund's portfolio. Therefore, we see in the agricultural sector the revitalization of the agricultural sector in Iraq (P171561/P178385) An opportunity to prepare a guide on women's empowerment in the agriculture index, which will become a tool for assessing the various gender-based impacts of Covid-19 and the progress made to reach gender parity in the agricultural sector. Within the framework of the Fund's support for human capital, the project to protect and enhance human capital in Iraq The pilot program for economic inclusion in Dhi Qar Governorate provided training, guidance, guidance, and assets to 2,200 families, with the participation of 45% of women. In the education sector, the project contributes to supporting education and skills development in Iraq (P171165) in the economic empowerment of women

through capacity building and implementing gender-sensitive educational interventions. The project (Supporting Higher Education in Iraq) (P175694) also works to improve institutional capabilities to help address the problem of Unemployment among graduates by providing equal access and opportunities for males and females. As for the private sector, the project targets an enabling environment for small and growing companies (P171175) business enablers and provides specialized technical assistance on how to increase its gender perspective in its programs and communicate with women-led companies. It also includes The project provides guidance, guidance and access to financial networks for small and growing women-led businesses through the fundraising process (World Bank, 2023).

Analysis of lending and training programs in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

The Supreme National Committee for Employment and Vocational Training was formed in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in 2005 with the aim of drawing up an employment policy for unemployed people of both sexes and coordinating between various agencies in order to train the workforce in the specializations required to implement projects. The financing role of the Employment and Loans Department is through its branches spread across all governorates. Iraqiya aims to reduce poverty and reduce unemployment by creating job opportunities for the unemployed or granting registered among them soft loans to be invested in the field of agriculture, industry and trade. Among these programs that have been launched are:

Microcredit program within the national poverty alleviation strategy

The first poverty reduction strategy was launched in 2010, and loans were allocated to the poor of both genders, the total of which was granted amounting to (12,743) thousand loans in Iraq since the beginning of the program in 2012 until the year 2022 within the Financial Management Law No. (6) of 2019, and the program targeted The poorest groups were supported to establish income-generating projects, while the funding mechanism for the program was for the Ministry of Planning to allocate, within the scope of the strategy, an amount of (84) billion dinars in the investment budget of the Ministry of Labor for this purpose in the ministry's budget for the year 2012. The allocation for 2022 amounted to (62) billion dinars. Within the Emergency Support for Food Security and Development Law, the Ministry of Labor has developed a plan to lend (10-11) thousand small projects to specific categories of segments of society that suffer from the burden of poverty as a result of unemployment, deprivation, and the security and economic situation that the country has been going through since 2014 - 2022, as it is characterized by Loans are without bank interest, but only administrative commissions, during which the borrower is granted a maximum grace period of one year from the date of receipt of the loan, and repayment is made annually for a period of 8 years. In the event of the death of the borrower after a period of no less than 6 months has passed since the implementation of a project, the heirs of the deceased borrower are exempted from what remains in his debt in the event of the project being closed. and the inability of the heirs to manage it. In 2013, the financial allocation was increased to (168) billion dollars, while in 2014 the allocations increased by (72) billion dollars, bringing the total to (240) billion dinars, due to the proven success of the small projects in the program and the categories covered by the strategy to mitigate Poverty includes individuals below the poverty line, including the unemployed, widows, divorcees, unstable families, and immigrants within the age group 18-55.

Table 1. Number of women benefiting from loans according to the poverty alleviation strategy in the governorates for the period 2012-2022

Females	Governorate
5	Anbar
62	Babylon
9	Basra
365	Baghdad
17	Diyala
14	Diwaniyah
34	Dhi Qar
52	Salahaddin
19	Karbala
26	Kirkuk
51	Double
59	Maysan
25	Najaf
8	Nineveh
78	Wasit
824	the total

Source: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Employment and Training Department, Loan Section.

2- Small Income Enterprise Support Fund: This fund was established in accordance with Law No. 10 of 2012 with a capital of (150) billion dinars, which is specialized in financing small and medium enterprises for unemployed people of both sexes registered within the age group (18-45). The loan amount is according to the nature of the project, provided that It does not exceed (20) million dinars, and it is granted in two installments, the first installment (50%) of the loan amount to complete the project procedures and the second (50%) remaining within an appropriate period, in addition to the Ministry's decision to expand the categories covered by the program to include owners of projects funded by the Industrial Service Law No. (30) of the year 2000 Therefore, (117) billion dinars were added to the credit fund account in 2013, which were transferred from the development fund affiliated with the Ministry of Planning, and thus the total capital of the fund became (267) billion dinars. It is noted from Table (2) that Baghdad Governorate is ranked first in number Beneficiaries of loans according to the Small Income Enterprise Support Fund, as the number of borrowers reached (12,802) and the percentage of females was (14.12%). Najaf ranked second, as the total number of beneficiaries of loans reached (4,325) and the number of females was (128), with a percentage of (2.95). %), as for Dhi Qar, it was ranked third with a number of loans (4133) and the number of women was (370) with a percentage of (8.95%), which means that the number of males exceeds females in all Iraqi governorates. This is due to the inability of women to go towards these projects and the fear of Loss in the project.

Table 2. Number of women beneficiaries of loans in the With Income Fund for the period (2012-2022)

Governorate	Number of women
Anbar	54
Babylon	376
Basra	285
Baghdad	2033

Diyala	195
Diwaniyah	317
Dhi Qar	389
Salahaddin	501
Karbala	332
Kirkuk	203
Double	189
Maysan	184
Najaf	176
Nineveh	37
Wasit	247
Total	5518

Source: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Employment and Training Department, Loan Section.

The most important areas in which the Tamkeen Fund has contributed are; (1) Humanitarian and social cases; (2) Supporting the education sector; (3) Protecting the environment and combating desertification in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture; (4) Support provided to culture, heritage, media and arts; (4) Financing economic, development and reconstruction projects; (5) Empowering women and youth.(Central Bank of Iraq, Community and Humanitarian Activities Committee, Tamkeen Fund).

Community Rehabilitation Fund

This fund was established in 1995 in coordination between the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs and the International Labor Organization after integrating disabled persons, vulnerable groups of released female prisoners, women who support their families, and severely disabled wives of the age group 18-55 years into society by establishing personal income-generating projects after providing loans of up to (8) million dinars, noting that during the 4 years of 2019-2022 only (82) beneficiaries received the loan based on their request. This is due to the women's unwillingness to withdraw the loan, meaning when the beneficiary obtains the loan, her subsidy salary will stop, which is (450). One thousand dinars after (6) months of receiving the loan. The beneficiary used to receive the aid salary every two months, but now the salary is given every month. Therefore, the beneficiary prefers to remain on the salary and refuses the loan. It is noted from Table (3) that the number of women who benefited from the loan has increased in order to Opening markets. This is due to the ease of establishing such a project, as the project can be opened in the same house in which the beneficiary lives.

Table 3. Number of loan beneficiaries registered in the Women's Social Protection Department for the period (2019-2022)

Project Type	Number of beneficiaries
Photo shop	4
library	7
Cosmetic	28
Incubation	9
A clothing store	16
pastries	23
bakery	11
shaving	37
Markets	54
sewing	29

Source: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Department of Social Protection for Women, Department of Social Service for Women.

4- Evaluating women's participation in training courses: The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs works through these training courses to assist vulnerable groups in society and help them raise their cultural and material level and meet their needs by establishing income-generating projects that help them improve their living situation and empower them economically. It can be seen from Table (4) that shows the places and centers for vocational training and preparing women. Those who are trained in every center and governorate for the period 2003-2022. Dhi Qar ranked first, with the number of women who received vocational training reaching 1,044, while Baghdad (Al-Shu'la) ranked second, obtaining vocational training (10,694), and in Baghdad, Al-Walid area, they received On vocational training (9476)

Table 4. Vocational training places and centers and the number of women training in each center in Baghdad and the governorates for the period 2003-2022

Governorate	Number of female trainees
Diwaniyah	167
Salahaddin	854
Maysan	1749
Al-Muatasem	1960
Abi Gharib	1946
Anbar	3291
Falcon	4254
Khor Al-Zubair	1630
Karbala	5175
Rusafa	3769
Nineveh	2752
Shatra	8403
Najaf	3976
Basra	7403
Wasit	3011
My father is fertile	3970
Ministerial	8301
Saffron	7458
Kirkuk	7774
Newborn	8209
Nasiriyah	10456
Alexandria	7154
the flame	9537

Source: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Department of Social Protection for Women, Department of Social Service for Women.

Iraqi-Korean Center

The Iraqi-Korean Center was established in the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in 2005, and it is the first project of its kind in Iraq. It included constructing the center's building, equipping it with the latest devices and equipment, and training Iraqi staff in advanced courses in South Korea, with a financial allocation of (10) million dollars. In 2019, the Korean agency awarded a contract A memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, which includes the rehabilitation and restoration of the Iraqi-Korean Center for

Vocational Training, Table (5) Number of female trainees in the Iraqi-Korean Center for the period from 2003-2022, as we notice from Table (5) that the number of females in vocational courses exceeds Other courses during the period 2003-2022 due to the need of females to learn professions in order to open a small project with a return. The number of females in the vocational courses reached (80,482), while the number of females in the educational course reached (37,930), and the number of females in the entrepreneurship course reached (30,798), while the developmental cycle was only (524).

Table 5

Profession name	Type of profession	Number of female trainees
English	educational	278
Calculators	educational	207
Business innovation	Entrepreneurial	77
filming	professional	46
Women's haircut	professional	7
Accessories	professional	9
Hairdresser	professional	67
sewing	professional	31

Source: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Department of Social Protection for Women, Department of Social Service for Women.

Sources of governmental and international funding for programs of the Department of Labor and Vocational Training for Women: It is noted from Table (6) that the category that received the most training courses is the category of the unemployed, as the number of female trainees for the period 2003-2022 from the category of the unemployed reached (13,923). This category received training and funding from government agencies, and this number is small compared to The real number of unemployed women registered in the database of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, as the number of unemployed women during the period reached (379,115), and the least category that received a training course is the category of people with special needs, as the number of trainees in this category reached (3) only, and this category obtained Training and funding by a government agency.

Table 6. The implementing agency for women's training projects with the type of trained group and its preparation for the period 2003-2022

The implementing and financing party	Females	Trainee class
Governmental	125984	unemployed
International	14876	Organizations
Governmental	9537	student
Governmental	2481	employee
Governmental	1742	Displaced women
Governmental	18	Orphanages
Governmental	33	Divorced women and widows
Governmental	14	People with special needs
	154685	total

Source: Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Department of Social Protection for Women, Department of Social Service for Women.

Conclusion

There are many challenges and obstacles facing Iraqi women, including environmental, economic and social obstacles, in addition to the crises that the country has gone through, which prevent the involvement and empowerment of women, which has led to the obstruction of their true role in the field of achieving sustainable development. The weak role of Iraqi women in the field of environmentally friendly economic projects, and if they exist, they are not at the level of ambition. Despite the contributionThe responsible authorities, represented by the Central Bank of Iraq and the Ministry of Labor, empower Iraqi women in the field of establishing environmentally friendly economic projects, whether through loans and facilities or through training and qualification, but they are not at the required level. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is one of the most supportive bodies for women by holding many training courses that aim to help and empower women in society, assist them, raise their cultural and material level, and meet their needs in establishing income-generating projects that help them improve their living situation and empower them economically, but they are not at the level of ambition.

Recommendations

The necessity of adopting flexible work plans capable of advancing the status of women and implementing environmentally friendly economic projects to reduce the negative repercussions of environmental changes on women and thus work to achieve sustainable development goals. The necessity of coordination between the responsible authorities and the Ministry of Labor for this purposeHolding workshops and training courses that work to spread awareness and train and qualify all women through advanced training programs that enhance their ability and ensure their real participation in the economic empowerment of environmentally friendly projects. Contain unemployment ratesWomen in the government sector and the private sector through enhanced job opportunities for production and productivity and environmental, social and legal protection systems for women. Ensuring the establishment of legal frameworks to protect women's rights and protect them from environmental changes by the responsible authorities and with the assistance of human rights organizations and civil society organizations.

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