



International  
Labour  
Organization

# Green economy in Iraq

Challenges and opportunities



# Definitions

- Some clarifications on the concept of « Climate change »
- What are the effects on the world of work?
- Green economy / green jobs?
- Can everyone find a place in the green economy?



# What does mean climate change

Many people believe that **climate change mainly results in higher temperatures**. Yet rising temperatures are just the beginning of the story.

Since the Earth is a system where **everything is connected**, a change in a place can have repercussions anywhere else.

Job losses affecting mainly the most vulnerable

- Climate change is probably the greatest challenge of our time. Because of the environmental degradation it generates, climate change poses a considerable risk to the economy by reducing productivity and destroying jobs.

- Droughts, heat waves, heavy rains, tropical cyclones, rising sea levels, rising temperatures and changes in the distribution of rainfall have led to the displacement of workers, disruptions to business activities, damage to business equipment, infrastructure and negative repercussions on productivity, the labour market and employment.

# Climate change in Iraq

Climate change and its manifestations in Iraq have direct implications on employment in Iraq.

In its 2021 report, the World Bank is forecasting **that Iraq could suffer a 20% drop in water resources which is likely to lead to large losses across multiple sectors of the economy and therefore affecting the lives and employment of many people.**

**A drop of 4% due to climate change could translate into a fall in demand for unskilled labour in the agricultural sector of 11.8%, and of 5.4% in non-agricultural activities (World Bank 2021b).**

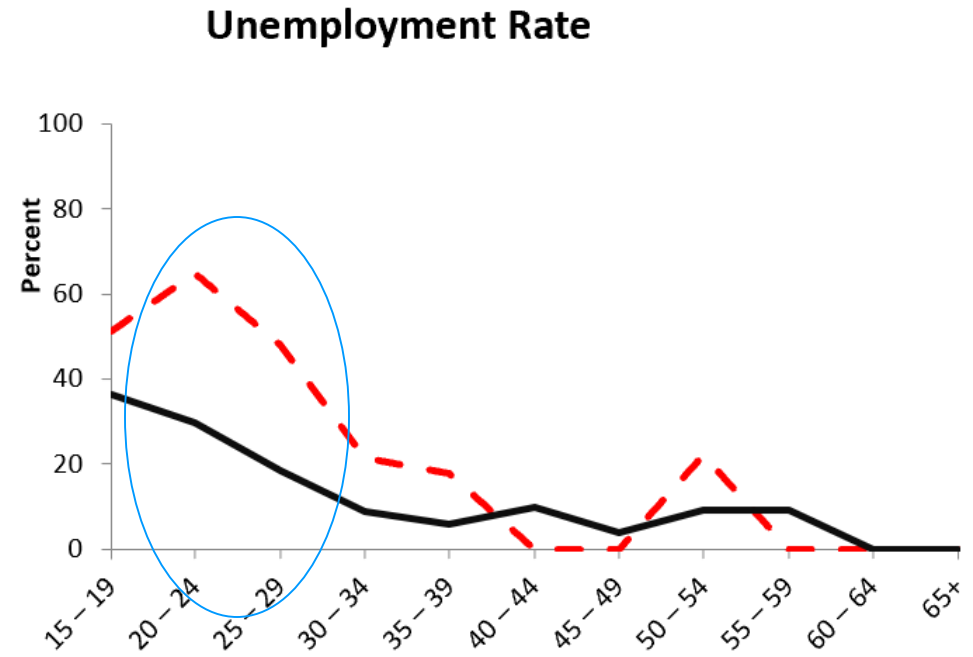
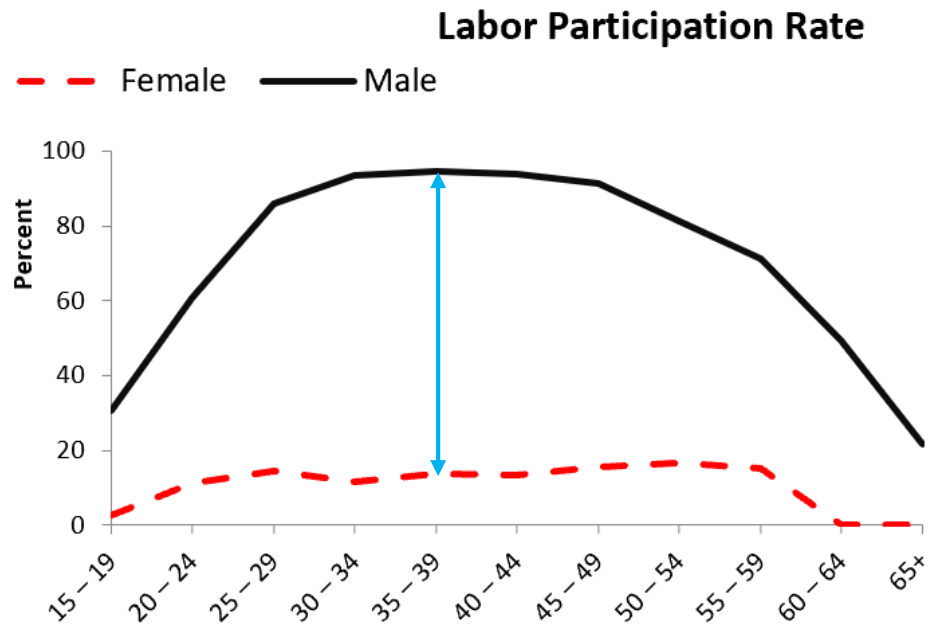
The Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Agriculture and MOLSA have a strong interest in joining forces in this respect.

Activity and employment may also be affected by other crippling events such as sandstorms. **Between March and April 2022, Iraq has experienced 9 sandstorms, some of them causing the shutdown of the country as the public sector was ordered to close, except for health and security services, with airports suspending flights.**

# Green jobs and green business for youth

- **As Iraq is ranked among the world's 5 most vulnerable nations to climate change and desertification, employment-focused interventions towards mitigation and adaptation to climate change need to be a key concern of any national policy.**
- **Incorporating climate change policies** at the heart of Iraq's development can help raise revenues and help job creation in the medium term (World Bank 2021a).
- The ILO thus sees **green jobs and business** as a win-win solution to address current development challenges to help job seekers and aspiring entrepreneurs to find jobs and set up green businesses and existing enterprises to go green.
- We all should **support policies, procedures and services for SMEs on how to generate green business ideas, how to design a green business plan, and how to green the processes of a business.**
- This will **enable young job seekers and entrepreneurs to choose a green pathway** and to benefit from the many advantages this brings while contributing to a more sustainable future for all.

# Youth unemployment in Iraq



Source: LFS 2021

# Creating jobs in the green economy

Getting informed

Training

Being competitive

Financing

# What is a green economy?

According to the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), "**A green economy leads to improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and resource scarcity. In its simplest form, it is characterised by low carbon emissions, resource efficiency and social inclusion**".

The aim is to promote **a just transition towards ecologically sustainable economies and societies, which generates decent jobs and an improvement in the living conditions of the most disadvantaged populations.**



# Green Economy

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# Sectors at the heart of the green economy

Eco-activities : activities that produce goods or services with the aim of protecting the environment or the sustainable management of natural resources.

## **3 sectors are identified as the heart of the green economy:**

- X Production and distribution of energy and water
- X Sanitation and waste treatment
- X Protection of nature, the environment and biodiversity
- X Peripheral activities : activities promoting better environmental quality, without this being their primary purpose.

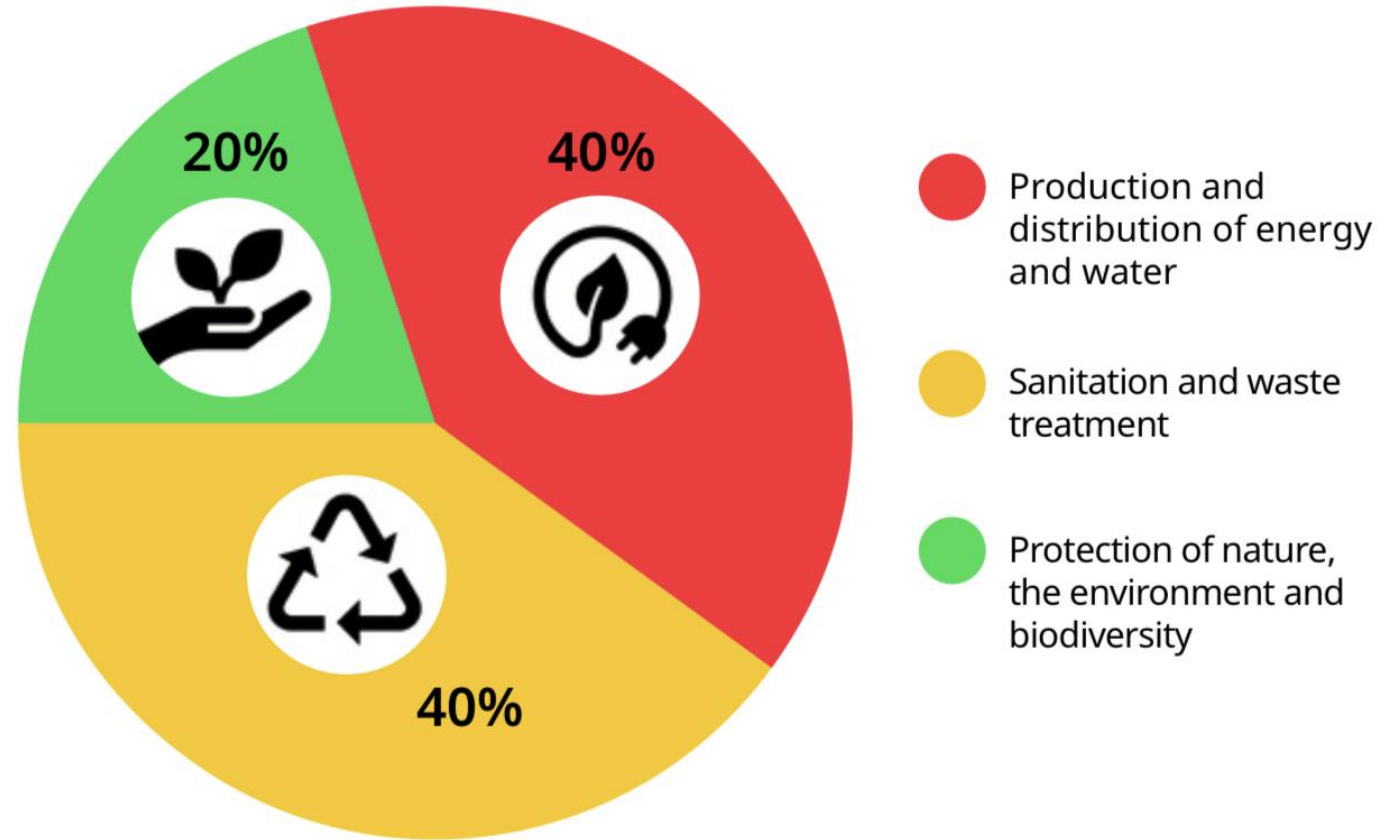
## **6 traditional sectors are particularly affected by changes in their production methods:**

- X Transport
- X Building
- X Agriculture and livestock
- X Forest industry
- X Fishing
- X Manufacturing.



# Job market for green jobs

Job market for green jobs





## Some examples of ILO work in Iraq to support Green economy:

### Repair and maintain irrigation channels

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- 25% jobs created for women,
- 50% jobs for Forced Displaced Persons (Syrian, IDPs)
- 40% for young people (18-24 years),
- 4% for persons with disabilities.



# Forestation

The ILO is implementing an integrated approach to job creation in Iraq, where workers employed through these short-term EIP interventions are able to develop:

- demand-driven skills and access career counseling and other employment services,

- paving the way for longer-term and more sustainable decent work opportunities.





# Solid Waste Sorting and Sorting from Source

- 90% jobs created for women,
- 80% jobs for Forced Displaced Persons (Syrian, IDPs)
- 40% for young people (18-24 years),
- 3% for persons with disabilities.



# Some useful resources

- Green Business Booklet

[https://www.ilo.org/wcmstp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/---emp\\_ent/---ifp\\_seed/documents/publication/wcms\\_555274.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmstp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/---ifp_seed/documents/publication/wcms_555274.pdf)

- Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all

[https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/publications/WCMS\\_432859/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/green-jobs/publications/WCMS_432859/lang--en/index.htm)

- How to work in the green economy? Guide for young people, job seekers and those who support them

[https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/youth-employment/publications/WCMS\\_856666/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/youth-employment/publications/WCMS_856666/lang--en/index.htm)





Keep it Simple:  
What is a just  
transition?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_GHN\\_TNP7Fzw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GHN_TNP7Fzw)