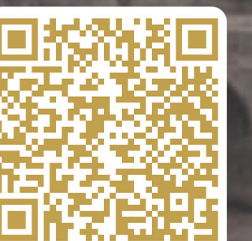




Department of Media and Information  
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## Summary of the strategic projects of the Kurdistan Regional Government

2019 - 2024







**Kurdistan Regional Government  
Council of Ministers  
Department of Media and Information**



**Summary of the strategic projects of the ninth cabinet of  
the Kurdistan Regional Government**

**2024 No. 01**

**This publication offers a summary of the work and projects undertaken by the ninth cabinet of the Kurdistan Regional Government and will be released in a series of consecutive issues.**







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## Introduction

Operating under the motto "A Stronger Kurdistan," the ninth cabinet of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has embarked on its mission with a structure comprising 19 ministries, 12 departments and boards.

Despite significant political and economic challenges, including fluctuating oil revenues, complex relations with the Iraqi federal government, regional instability, and refugees among others, Prime Minister Masrour Barzani's consistent focus on reform and service delivery has been central to the Ninth Cabinet's agenda, resulting in substantial progress in organization and reform.

The cabinet's primary goals include crisis management, financial, administrative and security reforms, and the execution of strategic service projects, with a notable emphasis on public-private partnerships. These reforms reflect the broader ambition to enhance the KRG's governance capacity while fostering economic resilience, particularly through diversifying its economic base in sectors such as agriculture, industry, trade and investment.

By prioritising the enhancement of economic infrastructure and focusing on these key sectors, the ninth cabinet aims to meet the commitments laid out in its reform agenda, positioning itself to navigate both internal pressures and external geopolitical challenges.





## 1 Water Security

To ensure water security, numerous ponds, dams, waterways and sewerage projects have been implemented across the Kurdistan Region. These initiatives aim to provide safe, clean water, combat drought, enhance agricultural production, and support livestock. Additionally, considerable focus has been placed on strengthening water infrastructure, as outlined in the following tables:





## Dams

#	Project Name	Cost #IQD B	Project Details
1	Chamrga	4.4	Located in Erbil Governorate. Has a capacity of 1.2 million cubic metres of water.
2	Khans	9.2	Located in Shekhan District in Duhok Governorate. Has a capacity of 7 million cubic metres of water.
3	Dewana	26.6	Located in Darbandikhan District in Slemani Governorate. Has a capacity of 21 million cubic metres of water.
4	Akwban	8.1	Located in Shaqlawa District in Erbil Governorate. Has a capacity of 2.6 million cubic metres of water.
5	Shawger	5.6	Located in Koya District in Erbil Governorate. Has a capacity of 2 million cubic metres of water.
6	Turajar	5.8	Located in Garmian Autonomous Administration. Has a capacity of 2 million cubic metres of water.
7	Gomaspan	95	Located in Erbil Governorate. Has a capacity of 97 million cubic metres of water.
8	Bastura	23	Located in Erbil Governorate. Has a capacity of 20 million cubic metres of water.
9	Dwin	88	Located in Erbil Governorate. Has a capacity of 100 million cubic metres of water.
Several other dams are currently under construction, with additional projects slated to begin soon.			





## Ponds

#	Project Name	Project Details
1	Challagrdala	Constructed in Erbil in 2022
2	Pirisi Khwarw	Constructed in Halabja in 2023
3	Khrds	Constructed in Duhok in 2022
4	Sarqzl	Constructed in Garmian in 2022
5	Qadyana	Constructed in Erbil in 2023
6	Banimaran	Constructed in Erbil in 2023
7	Karitan	Constructed in Erbil in 2021
8	Sule	Constructed in Shaqlawa in 2023
Currently, 43 ponds are under construction, with more under development.		



## Water supply and Sewerage System

#	Project Name	Cost	Project Details
1	Erbil Water Supply Emergency Project	480 million \$	Designed to filter 480,000 cubic metres of water daily, providing 20,000 cubic metres of clean water every hour to neighbourhoods in Erbil. Currently in the implementation phase.
2	Goptapa-Chamchamal Water Project	78 million \$	Aims to deliver 60,000 cubic metres of water daily to residents. Currently in the implementation phase.
3	Qushtapa Water Project	IQD 190 Billion	Currently in the implementation phase. Used as an effort to address water shortages in the Region.
4	Pirmam and Surrounding Areas Water Project	IQD 35 Billion	
5	Fayda-Duhok Water Supply Project	IQD 50 Billion	
6	Water Supply & Installation Project for 51 Villages in Barzan	IQD 30.1 Billion	
7	Akre Water Supply Project	IQD 41.1 Billion	
8	Ranya- Chwarqurna-Hajiawa Water Project	IQD 36.7 Billion	This project is currently underway, aiming to provide clean water to 12,000 residents of Darbandikhan.
9	Darbandikhan Water project	19.7 million \$	





## 2 Food Security and Industry

To strengthen the food and industrial infrastructure and support domestic production, the ninth cabinet has implemented numerous projects, outlined in the sections below: silos, companies, factories, plastic greenhouses, and cold storage facilities.





## Silos

Governorate	Site	Cost #IQD B	Storage Capacity #Tonnes
Erbil	Qushtapa	21	40,000
Slemani	Kalar	20	40,000
Duhok	Bardarash - Rovya	18	40,000
Halabja	In Halabja Governorate, 25% of the project has been completed.	26	40,000
Total		IQD 85 Billion	160,000 tonnes

## Factories and Companies

In the ninth cabinet's tenure, 977 factories were granted operating licences, bringing the total number of licensed factories in the Kurdistan Region to 4,547.

Trade Companies	
Number of Licensed Companies	
Regional Companies	7,227
Branches of Foreign Companies	216
Branches of National Companies	358
Total	7,801





## Plastic Greenhouses and Cold Storage Facilities

During the ninth cabinet, 30,000 plastic greenhouses were constructed, benefiting 3,813 farmers. Additionally, six factories dedicated to potato products and 11 factories for various agricultural goods were established. The cabinet also oversaw the construction of 101 cold storage facilities.

Agricultural investment in the Kurdistan Region saw significant growth, increasing from 1.8% to 8%. During this period, the region successfully exported various products, including rice, sumac, tahini, pomegranates, honey, apples, and potatoes, to markets in the United Arab Emirates, the Gulf states, Europe, and USA.

## 3 Road and Street Infrastructure

To enhance road infrastructure and strengthen the trade, industrial, and tourism sectors, while improving accessibility for citizens and reducing traffic accidents, the ninth cabinet has initiated a series of strategic projects. These efforts focus on connecting cities, towns, and villages through the development of intercity roads and inner-city roads. Further details are provided in the tables below:





#	Project Name	Cost #IQD B	Project Details
1	Erbil-Duhok Highway	399	86 kilometres
2	Spilk-Khalifan Highway	64	8.5 kilometres
3	Pirmam Tunnel	189	2.5 kilometres
4	Ranya Bridge	12	400 metres
5	Great Zab Bridge	43	900 metres
6	Kalar – Kifri Road	43	25 kilometres
7	Baadre - Etit Road	135	26 kilometres
Projects Being Implemented			
8	Kalar-Darbandikhan Road	137	41 kilometres. 70% of the road is completed.
9	Halabja - Twaqut - Qlija Road & Bridge	31	27 kilometres
10	Soran Gate Overpass	44	N/A
The ninth cabinet managed to complete 585 road projects, which is 75 of them are strategic projects. totaling 1,363 kilometres, have been completed at a cost of IQD 930 billion. Most of these projects are now in service.			



## Streets (Inner-City Roads)

#	Project Name	Cost #IQD B
1	Erbil 150-Metre Ring Road Highway Project on Erbil-Koya Main Route	582.1
2	Erbil 120-Metre Ring Road Highway Project.	127
3	Erbil 150-Metre Ring Road Highway Project on Bahrka-Duhok Main Route.	197.7
4	Erbil 120-Metre Ring Road Highway Connecting the Erbil-Duhok Highway (Gazna Road).	9
5	Phase 1 Construction of the Binavi 1 Underpass, Malta U-Turn, and a 6,000-Metre Service Road Along Barzan Road in Duhok.	13.4
6	Phase 2 Construction of the Binavi 1 Underpass, Malta U-Turn, and a 6,000-Metre Service Road Along Barzan Road in Duhok.	20.3
7	Key Developments Along Barzan Road in Duhok (Including underpasses at Imam Hamza Mosque & Duhok TV, Fermandeya Duhok, and Safin School; Completion of 1,505-Metre Road in Sector 85 of Nizarke; Opening and Paving of Service Road on North Side of Barzan Road, Extending 3,500 Metres) in Duhok.	68.1
8	Slemani 100 Metre Road.	428.5
9	Aram Intersection project in Slemani.	10.3
10	Faruk Intersection project in Slemani.	7.3
11	Wali Intersection project in Slemani.	6
12	Bakhi Bakhtiari Intersection project in Slemani.	12.9
13	Hapsa Khan Neqib Intersection project in Slemani.	5.6

The ninth cabinet constructed and renovated 1,967 road projects at a cost of IQD 1.863 trillion.



## Traffic Geometry

During this cabinet's term, traffic geometry work has been carried out by teams from the KRG's Ministry of the Interior, a responsibility previously handled by foreign companies. Over the past two years, 500 kilometres of roads and streets have been marked, 15,000 traffic signs installed, and approximately 40 kilometres of iron fencing erected along the roads and streets.





#### 4

### Public Services

The ninth cabinet remains committed to delivering essential services to the public, focusing on the construction of schools and universities, hospitals, transportation, water and electricity supply, efficient waste management, and the promotion of tourism and archaeology.



## Schools and Universities

#	Project Name	Project Details
1	Building 152 Schools	The KRG initiated the construction and renovation of schools and expanded classroom's capacity across the Region.
2	Renovating 1,670 Schools	
3	Adding 629 Classrooms	
4	Building Two Universities	Two new universities have been opened: 1. Garmian Polytechnic University in Kalar. 2. Akre University of Applied Sciences in Akre. Additionally, numerous new scientific faculties have been established across various universities.
Projects Currently Under Implementation and Scheduled for Completion in the Near Future		
1	42 Schools	Currently in the final stages, set to open for students and teachers in October 2024.
2	15 Schools and Kindergartens	Foundation stones have been laid, and construction is underway.
3	28 Schools	Currently under implementation in the Soran Autonomous Administration.





## Tuition Fee Waivers and Reductions

### Tuition Fee Waiver:

Students enrolled in parallel and evening studies are eligible for a 45% reduction of tuition fees. Additionally, a 100% tuition fee waiver for post-graduate programmes has been granted to the top three graduates from each university.

### Tuition Fee Reductions:

Tuition fees at private universities and institutions have been reduced by 20%. Furthermore, students from both public and private universities who are serving sentences in correctional facilities are eligible for a 100% tuition fee waiver.

## Water and Electricity Services

### Supply of Electricity:

Electricity Supply: During the ninth cabinet, the number of electricity customers increased by 436,981, bringing the total to 1,885,270 state electricity customers, with a daily supply of 3,817 megawatts.

### Clean Water Supply:

Prior to the ninth cabinet, there were 791,650 water customers. This number increased to 1,076,507, adding 284,857 new customers in the Kurdistan Region during the ninth cabinet's term. The annual cost of providing clean water services is IQD 500 billion, with the region supplies approximately 1 billion 31.7 million 55 cubic metres of clean water to citizens each year.



## Publication of Scientific Papers

Over the four-year period, a total of 3,477 scientific papers were published in local journals, 5,102 in international journals, and 3,957 in Scopus-indexed journals.

## Health Services

Thirty new hospitals have been built, with several more currently under construction, including:

- Amedi Hospital in Duhok
- Hospital for Communicable Diseases in Slemani
- Sidakan General Hospital in Erbil
- Emergency Hospital in Ranya
- Jamal Haji Ali Hospital in Slemani
- Children's Hospital in Zakho
- Psychiatric Hospital in Erbil

Additionally, 21 specialised centres are being established in the Kurdistan Region, including:

- Awat Centre for Radiation Cancer Treatment in Erbil
- Children's Open Heart Surgery Centre in Slemani
- Breast Cancer Diagnostic Centre in Ranya
- Thalassaemia Centre in Akre
- Kidney Dialysis Centre in Koya
- Diabetes Centre in Erbil



- The KRG is committed to supporting cancer patients by offering free testing and treatment at three hospitals and five specialised centres. Additionally, the foundation stones for two new cancer hospitals have been laid to further improve access to essential treatments and medications.
- The Eligibility Fund for Special Needs Services is set to launch soon, with the goal of providing essential services free of charge to individuals with disabilities and special needs.
- The distribution and sale of medicines in the market have been streamlined and coordinated by prioritizing drug quality and implementing a sticker systems for assurance and verification.
- Over the past four years, more than 50 million laboratory tests and 6 million imaging tests have been conducted.

#### ■ Future plans and programmes will importantly include:

- Health insurance.
- Establishment of the National Warehouse for Medicines and Medical Supplies.
- Creation of the National Pharmaceutical Company for Medicines and Medical Supplies.
- Development and enhancement of primary healthcare services.



## ■ Tourism and Archaeology

### ■ Tourism:

A total of 118 tourism projects, with a combined budget of IQD 48.7 billion, have been approved across the Kurdistan Region. Tourism investment ranks first, accounting for 44% of total investment capital. A notable initiative is Zakho Corniche Tourist Project, implemented at a cost of IQD 24 billion.

### ■ Archaeology:

During the ninth cabinet, 13 archaeological projects have been approved with a total budget of IQD 653.6 million, distributed among the governorates and autonomous administrations. Additionally, several excavation projects have been carried out by universities and international organisations.

## ■ Transportation Services

### ■ City Bus Project:

A comprehensive initiative aimed at reorganise public transportation through bus services in city centres. The project has successfully completed its design phase.

### ■ Taxi Meter Project:

The first phase, involving the creation of stickers and logos for all taxis in the Kurdistan Region, has been completed. The second phase of the project is currently underway.

## ■ Waste Management

In the Kurdistan Region, approximately 2.5 million tonnes of rubbish are collected and managed annually, with the cost of collection and management amounting to around IQD 125 billion.





## 5 Electricity Infrastructure

Electricity generation has increased by 1,340 megawatts, bringing the total of 3,817 megawatts. Additionally, the electricity generation infrastructure has expanded, reaching a capacity of 7,689 megawatts.



## Electricity Infrastructure

Below is a list of the power stations constructed during this cabinet's term:

#	Project Name	Project Details #Megawatts
1	Khabat thermal power station	300
2	Garmian waste gas to power station	165
3	Deraluk hydropower station	38
4	Bazian power station	750 megawatts, of which (250 megawatts) is clean energy
5	Resumption of three stations in Erbil, Slemani, and Duhok	87
Total Capacity		1,340 megawatts





- Solar power generation is currently underway, with 20 MW being produced through both public and private sectors in the Kurdistan Region. Additionally, plans are in place to generate 75 MW of solar electricity from three more projects.
- A decision has been made to generate 500 MW of clean energy at the Khormala Power Station using a combined cycle system that utilises waste energy for electricity generation. Currently, the production of 250 MW of clean energy at Khormala is in the trial phase.
- 61 projects in the electricity transmission sector have been implemented at a cost of \$372.84 million.
- In the electricity distribution sector, 3,119 projects have been implemented at a cost of IQD 206 billion.
- The installation of Smart Meters for public (national) electricity customers has significantly contributed to reducing electricity waste, curbing violations, and improving control of the electricity system. To date, 1,345,089 smart meters have been installed. This initiative has boosted the national grid's capacity, resulting in the removal of 300 private generators and enabling the provision of 24-hour electricity to citizens. So far, it has successfully provided uninterrupted electricity to over 65,000 customers.
- The government subsidises 76% of the cost of household electricity, with the public paying IQD 26.41 per kilowatt while the actual cost of a kilowatt is IQD 110.



## 6 Digital Infrastructure

In keeping with global advancements in digital transformation, the ninth cabinet has taken significant steps to digitise government services, streamline processes, and modernise the banking sector. The table below highlights several electronic systems implemented to achieve these objectives:



## Digitising Government Operations

#	Project Name	Project Details
1	'My Account' (Hazhmary Mn)	This project aims at achieving financial inclusion through the digitisation of salaries for public sector employees. To date, 500,000 employees have registered for the programme
2	Electronic Mail	Documents from the General Directorate of Education are sent to the Ministry of Education electronically, eliminating the need for postal mail and bureaucracy. This practice is now practiced at the district and sub-district education directorates
3	Ministry of Education's Digital Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• e-Wane (School)</li><li>• e-Halsangandn (Assesment)</li><li>• e-Ktebxana (Book)</li><li>• e-Xezan (Family)</li><li>• e-Rahenan (Training)</li><li>• e-Building</li><li>• e-Badwadachwn (Follow-up)</li><li>• HewreFeerge (Cloud-Learn)</li></ul> <p>These systems provide effective communication between the student's parents, teachers, schools, and the Ministry of Education.</p>
4	Citizen Complaint System	A platform allowing the public to raise voice, concerns, complaints or feedback.



## Digitising Government Operations

#	Project Name	Project Details
5	Business Registration System	A portal for entrepreneurs to register and manage trade names, companies, and professions.
6	e-Visa Portal	The official Kurdistan Region portal to apply for e-Visa and electronic travel authorisation.
7	All Administrative Systems Handling Citizens' Affairs Electronically	<p>This includes several systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Guarantor Information Management System</li><li>• National Stop List</li><li>• Information Update System</li><li>• Entry/Exit Management System</li><li>• Central Authentication</li><li>• Biometric Information</li><li>• Digital Form</li><li>• Taxi Driver Identification</li><li>• Salary Schedule Management</li><li>• Administrative Units Management</li><li>• Official Letters Management</li><li>• Accounting Units</li></ul>

## 7 Investment

With the backing of the government, \$16.6 billion has been invested across various sectors.





## Investment

Sector	Project Number	Capital (in USD)
Tourism	56	\$7,472,094,780
Housing	41	\$3,966,359,967
Industrial	116	\$2,902,814,473
Trade	101	\$939,693,929
Agriculture	17	\$505,853,983
Education	40	\$343,411,994
Health	27	\$309,585,658
Sport	9	\$72,746,269
Art	2	\$68,484,000
Banking	2	\$19,415,000
Service	3	\$16,004,526
<b>Total</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>\$16,616,464,579</b>

### Note:

In the ninth cabinet, 403 investment projects are being implemented by domestic companies, totalling \$11.63 billion, while eight projects by foreign companies have a capital of \$4.96 billion. Additionally, three joint projects between domestic and foreign companies will be implemented, with a combined capital of \$37.3 million.



## 8 Reform

**The outcomes of implementing the Reform Act, aligned with its provisions, are detailed below:**

- 1 Regulating the rights and privileges of the heirs of martyrs, Anfal victims, political prisoners, and detainees. Services are provided to the heirs of martyrs from the ISIS war in accordance with the 2007 law No.9 on the rights and privileges of the families of martyrs and Anfal victims. Additionally, educational services are offered to the children of Peshmerga martyrs and security personnel, including counter-terrorism forces.
- 2 Eliminating multiple benefits from the general budget and terminating the salaries of 4,189 individuals who were receiving more than one salary, all in accordance with relevant laws and guidelines.
- 3 Significant progress has been made in the reorganisation and unification of the Peshmerga, security forces, and police. The number of joint brigades has increased to 22, while the Ministry of Peshmerga's unified brigades has expanded to 68,598 personnel. Two military divisions have been established, and the guard units within the Ministry of Interior have been consolidated. Additionally, the Zerevani forces, along with the Defence and Emergency forces, have been reorganised in accordance with current laws.
- 4 During the reorganization and evaluation of civil and military service, the records of 357,815 civil servants were reviewed. Additionally, the personal files of all servicemen and women from the joint brigades of the Ministry of Peshmerga and the 70th and 80th units have been unified.



- 5 In the pension sector, the records of 1,140 senior and special ranks have been thoroughly reviewed. Additionally, the records of 2,619 pensioners have been successfully transferred from the General Directorate of Retirement within the Ministry of Peshmerga to the General Directorate of Retirement at the Ministry of Finance and Economy, from military to civil pension.
- 6 Civil Servants holding the position of General Director and above, who did not oversee management or administrative structure at a General Directorate level or higher -including heads of administrative units such as governors, mayors and district mayors- have been retired. This group consists of 153 individuals.
- 7 Under the ninth cabinet, the process of establishing institutions for a National Bank in the Kurdistan Region began, receiving an initial licence from the Central Bank of Iraq with a capital of IQD 250 billion.
- 8 In the process of recovering business loans from companies and the private sector, IQD 138.6 billion has been repaid (in cash and property) out of a total of IQD 408.4 billion. Additionally, bank interest amounting to IQD 662.8 billion has been accrued, alongside with the repayment of IQD 1.93 trillion in loans from specialised banks, out of an original amount of IQD 4.05 trillion.



## 9 Environment

- During the ninth cabinet's term, 7 million square metres of lands in the Kurdistan Region have been cleared of mines, leading to the defusal of more than 13,000 mines and 58,000 explosive devices.
- Six million firebreaks have been established to protect the forests.
- The ninth cabinet of the KRG has approved the establishment of three fixed air quality monitoring stations and one mobile station to evaluate air quality in the Kurdistan Region.
- Before the ninth cabinet, green space coverage in the Kurdistan Region was 15%, but it has now increased to over 18%. In line with environmental guidelines, 25% of the land designated for industrial projects is allocated for green spaces.
- In the context of environmental protection, several recycling projects have been implemented. Notably, the advanced Asphalt Recycling Factory, the first of its kind in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region, was established in Erbil. The facility has the capacity to produce 2,000 tonnes of recycled asphalt per day, offering substantial benefits for both road maintenance and environmental sustainability.



## 10 Job creation during the ninth cabinet

- During the ninth cabinet tenure, over 130,000 jobs have been created through investment, with more than 80% of these positions filled by young people in the Region.
- In 2024, under the directive of Prime Minister Masrour Barzani, contracts were awarded to 38,000 non-contracted teachers in the education sector.
- A directive was issued to employ 4,925 top graduates from universities and institutes, spanning the academic years from 2016–2017 to 2021–2022.
- During the ninth cabinet's tenure, industrial factories generated a total of 15,000 jobs.
- Approximately 9,718 individuals benefited from vocational training, while 1,407 individuals in correctional facilities participated in workshops, and 403 individuals received education within those facilities.
- During the ninth cabinet, over 87,991 local and foreign workers were enrolled in the social security and pension scheme, alongside with 22,874 registered projects.
- A total of 9,500 young people have benefited from the reintroduction of microcredit programmes.





## 11 Society and Government

### Rights and Liberties:

The KRG has approved the Kurdistan Region Human Rights Plan for 2021-2025, and several related recommendations have been implemented.

### Coexistence:

The Kurdistan Region is home to eight official religious communities, and during this cabinet's tenure, 457 religious sites have been established.

### Media:

The Kurdistan Region upholds the principles of democracy and freedom by guaranteeing media and press freedom for all journalists in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Currently, 126 local channels, 31 satellite channels, 176 radio stations, 121 websites, and 988 newspapers and magazines operate freely.

### Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs):

A total of 5,001 local and foreign organisations are registered in the Kurdistan Region, and they have been granted opportunities to work in various sectors.

### Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees:

Allocating \$842 million in humanitarian assistance yearly to support over one million IDPs and refugees residing in 31 camps across the Kurdistan Region.



## Decentralisation:

Prime Minister Masrour Barzani has initiated the decentralization of administrative and financial powers to the governorates and autonomous administrations. As part of this effort, Soran Independent Administration, Zakho Independent Administration, and various public service directorates have been established, with the aim of improving convenience for citizens.

## 12 The Kurdistan Region's Position in the World

■ The ninth cabinet of the KRG has worked to enhance the Kurdistan Region's presence on the global stage by establishing new representations and actively participating in international conferences. These efforts aim to convey establishing peace, address youth migration issues, strengthen scientific relations, promote equality, and tackle environmental challenges, among other key priorities.

■ The Kurdistan Region maintain 14 representative offices abroad, in addition to over 40 international representative and trade offices, as well as agencies located within the Region.

**"We will continue to serve tirelessly,  
may Kurdistan thrive and prosper"**

**Masrour Barzani**