



SNAPSHOT

Helping US Investment Take Root in Northern Iraq



Ford was represented at the USAID-Foras sponsored networking event by local distributor NIVA Car Trading and Trading LTD. (Photo credit Iraq-Foras)



New Holland also attended the event and showcased their newest tractor. (Photo credit Iraq-Foras)



Disclaimer: This Success Story is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of FHI 360 and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States

The Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR) is open for business, and U.S. companies are ready to invest in Iraq's economic growth. According to the Kurdistan Board of Investment, the region sets an annual goal of eight percent for Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. With more than 47 oil companies working in the Kurdistan region, numerous U.S. businesses and venture capitalists have invested in the region.

By linking qualified job seekers with the Kurdistan region's growing economy, the USAID-Foras Project has been able to help improve the IKR's forecast for continued sustainable economic growth. [USAID-Foras](#) has hosted networking events where companies come together to discuss many issues, obstacles, challenges and opportunities in IKR.

On December 4, the USAID-Foras Project hosted a private sector meet-and-greet. This event provided an opportunity for companies based in Erbil to come together and discuss future investment opportunities. Furthermore, the meeting gave private sector companies a chance to network and discuss specific challenges and opportunities they are facing related to workforce development.

During the event, [USAID/Iraq Mission](#) Director Sarah-Ann Lynch met with representatives from U.S. companies doing business in Iraq and their local partners as well as officials from the Kurdistan Regional Government's Ministry of Natural Resources. Some of the companies represented were Ford (NIVA Car Trading and Trading LTD., the local distributor), New Holland, Cummins, Phillip Morris, Coca Cola and many others. As a result of this event, NIVA (Ford) signed up for Foras' Jobs Portal. Najih Soub, logistics manager, said: "We expect to hire more than 100 people in the next year, and the Foras Jobs Portal will be a huge help."

The USAID-Foras Project, funded by the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#) (USAID), aims to connect skilled job seekers with private sector employers, helping alleviate unemployment and boosting the Iraqi economy. The USAID-Foras Project is building linkages between job seekers and employers through training, community outreach, and a Jobs Portal designed to improve the efficiency of the labor market.