Panel Study IV: Impact of COVID-19 on SMEs in Iraq

**SME Breakdown**

**LOCATIONS OF SMEs INTERVIEWED**
- Food and Agriculture (181 SMEs)
- All Sectors (716 SMEs)

**SMEs INTERVIEWED IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**AVERAGE MONTHLY REVENUE**

**Note: Multi-select question**

- Food and Agriculture
- Wholesale and Retail
- Agri-Food Processing
- Accommodation and Food Service

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES**

**Note: Multi-select question**

- Food and Agriculture
- Other

**Job Loss**

**AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES**

**Note: Multi-select question**

- Full-time Employees
- All Employees

**Main Findings**

- **Average % employment increase between February 2020 (Pre-COVID-19) and May 2021: 7%**
- **Average % production reduction in month prior to data collection: 45%**

**Losses**

**Note: Multi-select question**

- **AVERAGE MONTHLY REVENUE**
  - February (Pre-COVID-19)
  - May 2020 (Round 1)
  - May 2021 (Round 4)

**Input and Raw Materials**

**Note: Multi-select question**

- Supply of Most-Used Input Decreased by 34% of firms reported a decrease

**SMEs WITH DEBT**

- Most common types of debt are...

**Needs**

- **DESIRED COVID-19 GOVERNMENT SUPPORT**
  - Financial programs*
  - Reduced tariffs on imported goods
  - Support to self-employed
  - Employment programs
  - Cash transfers
  - Reduce the lockdown for some sectors

**About the Study**

This assessment of 716 small and medium enterprises was jointly designed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Iraq, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the International Trade Centre (ITC). The selection of respondents took place through a blocking design sample of Iraqi governorates from 2,236 firms registered in IOM databases, covering rural and urban areas. IOM field researchers completed in total four rounds of surveying over the phone with business owners. Round 1 took place from 22 June to 7 July 2020 and Round 4 took place from 8 to 24 June 2021. The questionnaire followed an informed consent protocol that offered respondents a description of the purpose of the survey and a chance to opt out. This study is funded by the European Union and the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration.