



# Enhancing Railway Connectivity in Rural Iraq: A Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development

RESEARCHER:HAIFAA. NAJIM/SENIOR CHIEF ENGINEER/IRAQI RAILWAY  
COMPANY

# Introduction

- ▶ Rural Iraq faces economic isolation due to inadequate transport infrastructure .
- ▶ · Railways offer a sustainable solution for freight and passenger mobility.
- ▶ · Objective: Analyze challenges and propose strategies for rural railway enhancement. Points:

## Road Transport



## Rail Transport



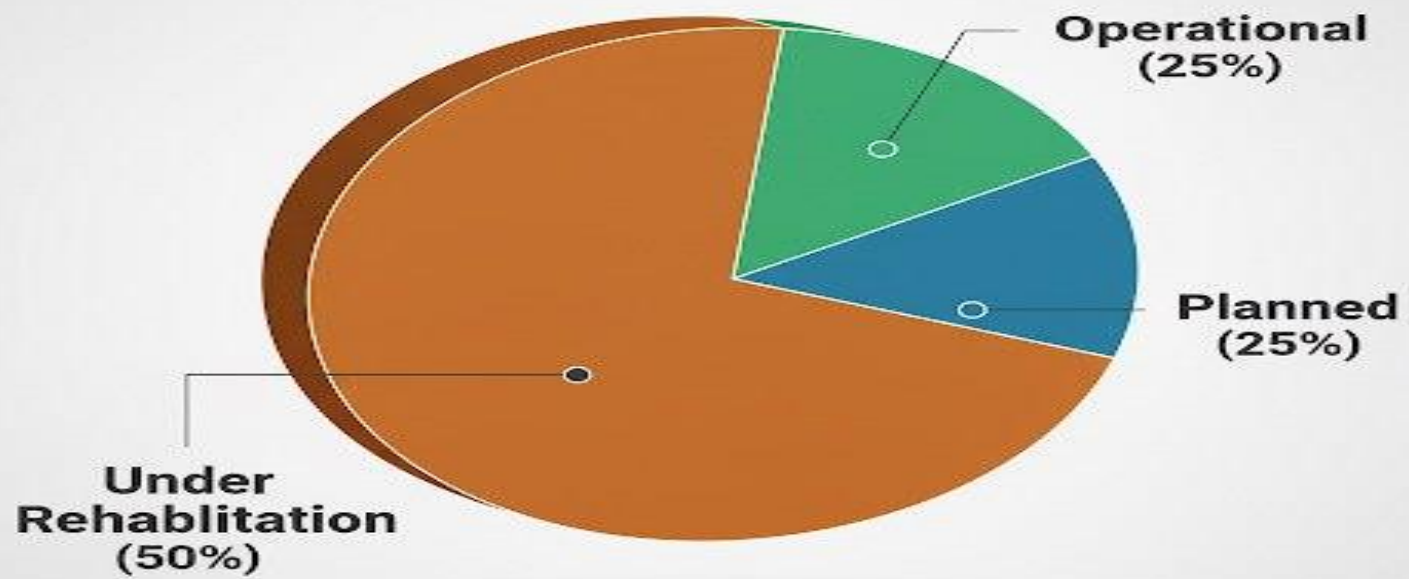
# Current State of Rural Railways

## Statistics:

- ▶ · Only 25% of Iraq's railways are operational; 50% require rehabilitation .
- ▶ · Critical lines (e.g., Baghdad-Mosul) are 50% damaged by conflict and neglect.
- ▶ · Limited connectivity to agricultural hubs (e.g., Diyala, Nineveh).

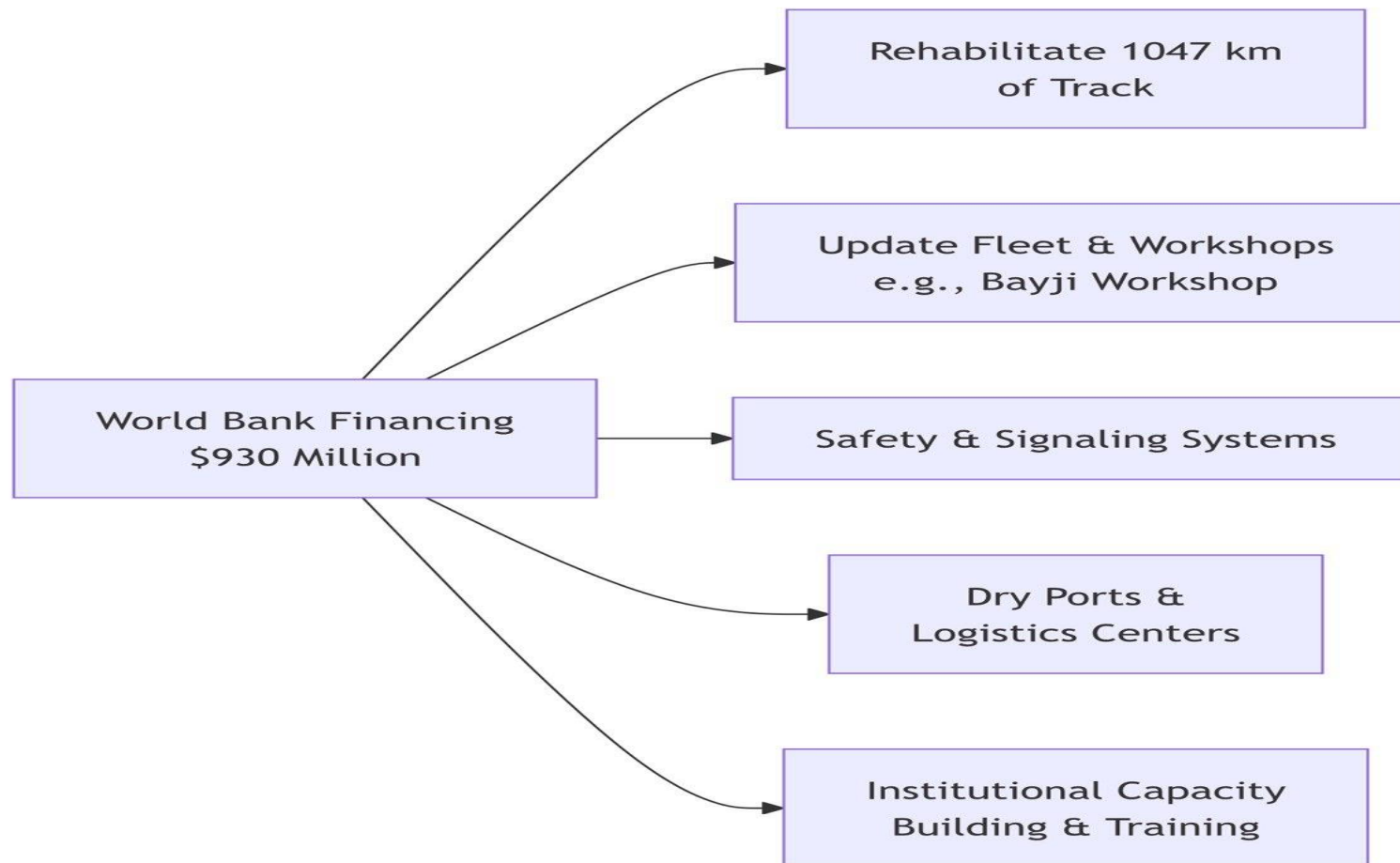


## IRAQ RAILWAY NETWORK STATUS



# Economic Impact of Railway Expansion Data

- ▶ · IREM Project (\$930M): Aims to boost domestic freight to 6.3M tons and exports to 1.1M tons by 2037 .
- ▶ · Job Creation: 3,000 construction jobs (7 years); 21,900 annual jobs by 2040 .
- ▶ · Cost Reduction: Rail freight cuts logistics costs by 30% compared to road transport.

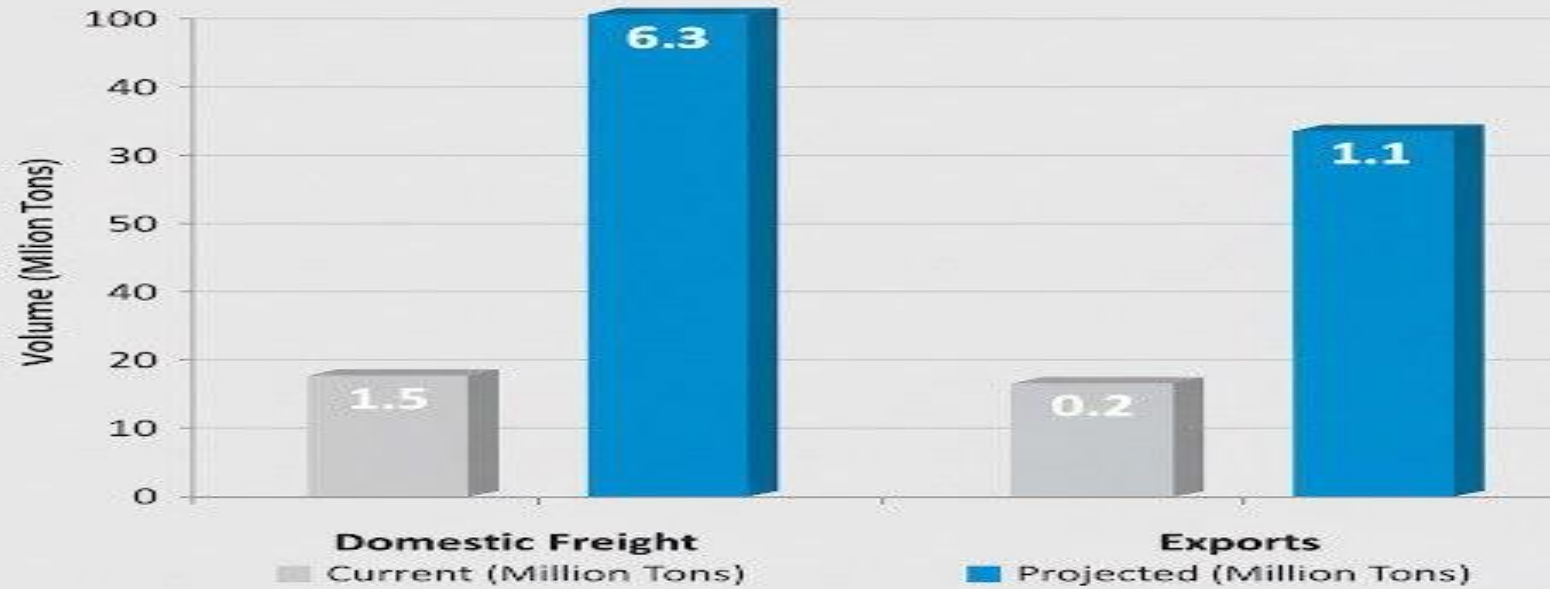


### 3. Expected Economic and Social Impact

**Table of Targeted Goals by 2037**

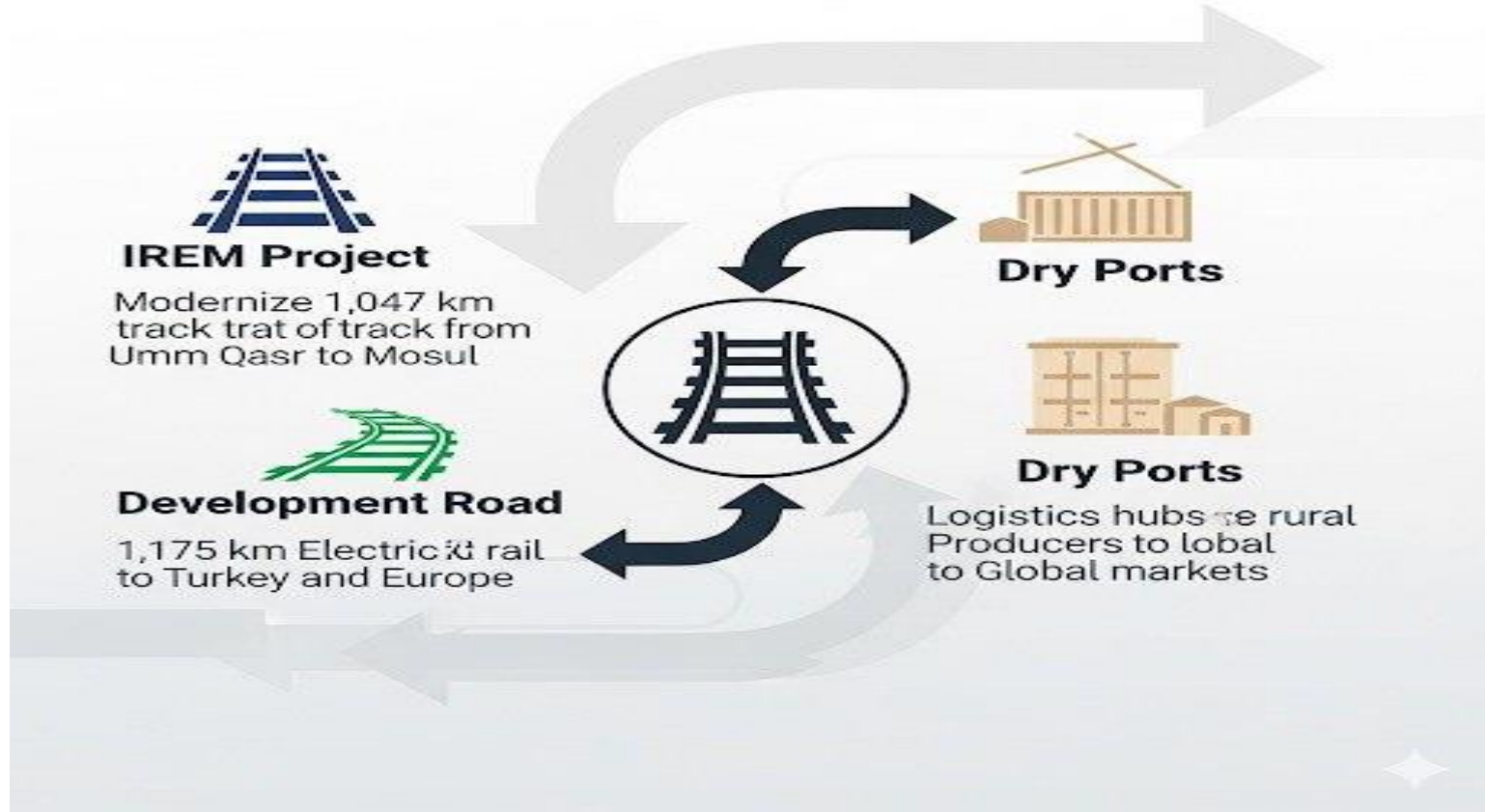
Source	Target Value	Indicator
	6.3 million tons	Domestic Freight Volume
	1.1 million tons	Export/Import Volume
	2.85 million passengers	Number of Passengers
	3,000 jobs (over 7 yrs)	Construction Jobs
	21,900 jobs	Annual Jobs by 2040

## IREM Project Freight Volume Targets



## Strategic Projects Initiatives:

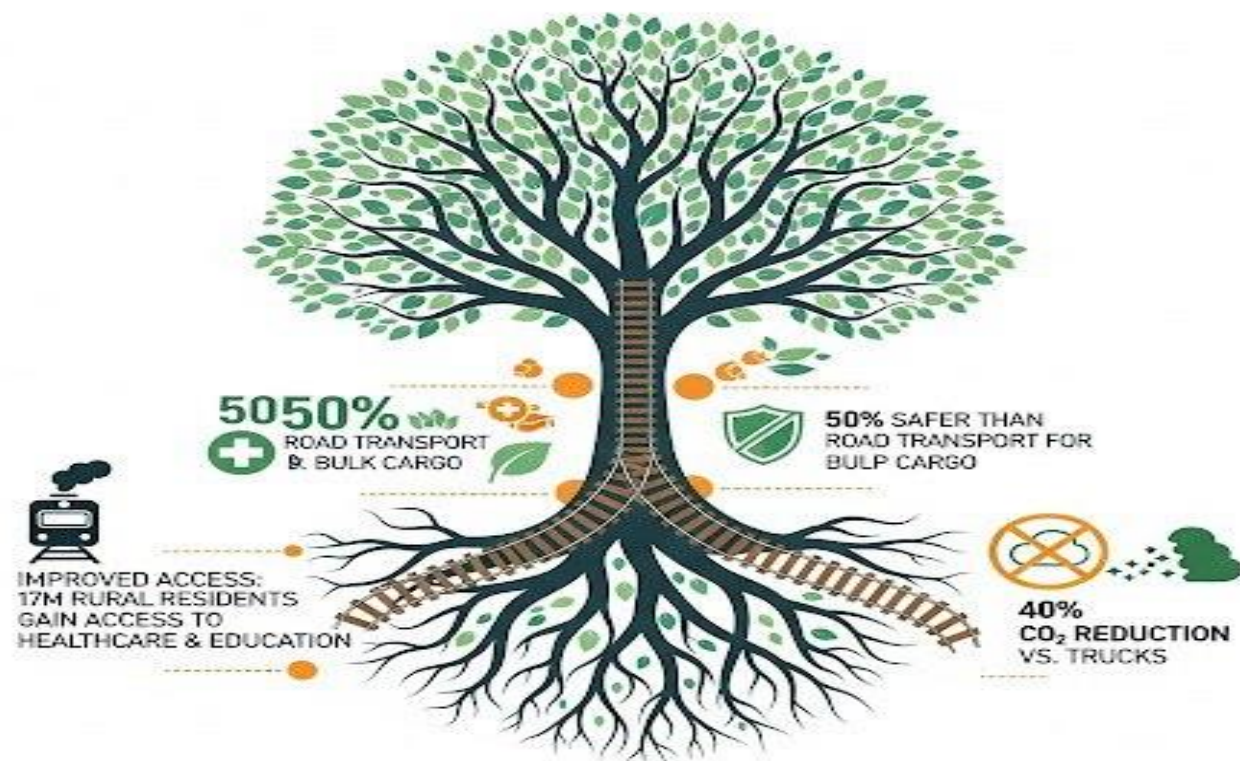
- ▶ 1. IREM Project: Modernize 1,047 km of track (Umm Qasr to Mosul) .
- ▶ 2. Development Road: Link Iraq to Turkey/Europe via a 1,175-km electric rail line .
- ▶ 3. Dry Ports: Establish logistics hubs to connect rural producers to global markets.



# Social and Environmental Benefits Highlights:

- ▶ · **Social:** Improved access to healthcare/education for 17M rural residents .
- ▶ · **Environmental:** Rail reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 40% vs. trucks and decreases road congestion.
- ▶ · **Safety:** Railways are 50% safer than road transport for bulk cargo.

## BENEFITS OF RAILWAY EXPANSION



# Challenges and Solutions

## Challenges:

- ▶ Funding gaps (\$930M secured; additional \$500M needed).
- ▶ · Security risks in conflict-affected areas.
- ▶ · Institutional fragmentation in railway management.
- ▶ Solutions:
- ▶ · Public-private partnerships (PPPs) for funding.
- ▶ · Community-led security monitoring.
- ▶ · Centralized rail authority for coordination.

## CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS FOR RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT

### Challenges



**Funding gaps \$930M secured; additional \$500M needed)**



**Security risks in conflict-affected areas**



**Institutional fragmentation in railway management**

### Solutions



**Public-private partnerships (PPPs for funding)**



**Community-led security monitoring**

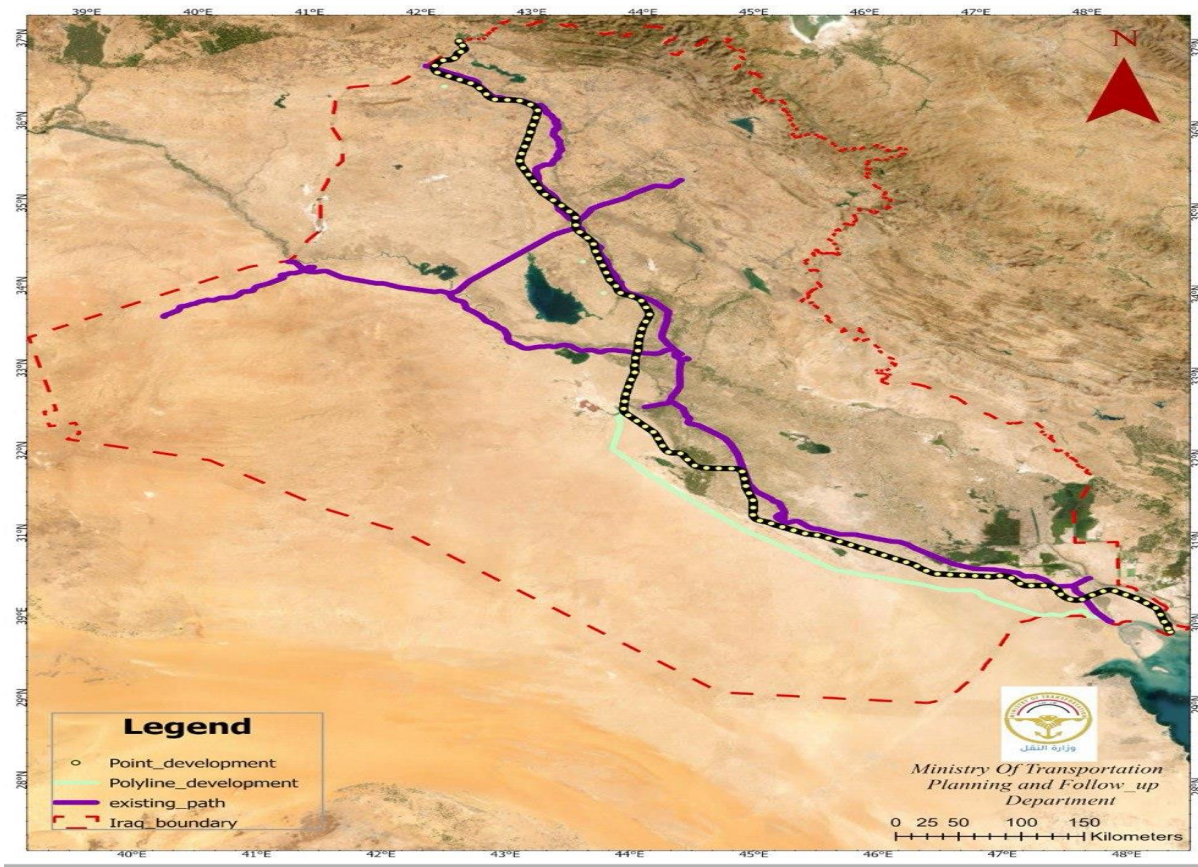


**Centralized rail authority for coordination**

# Case Study: Regional Integration

## Example:

- ▶ **Turkey-Iraq Rail Link: Reduces transit time from Basra to Turkey to 12 days (vs. 30 days by sea) .**
- ▶ **• Potential to handle 3.5M containers annually by 2030.**



# Recommendations

- ▶ 1. Prioritize rehabilitation of agricultural corridors (e.g., Basra-Mosul).
- ▶ 2. Integrate digital signaling systems for safety.
- ▶ 3. Leverage international partnerships (e.g., World Bank, EU).
- ▶ 4. Promote women's participation in railway operations .

## Railway Checklist



REHABILITATION OF  
AGRICULTURAL CORRIDORS



DIGITAL SIGNALING SYSTEMS



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S  
PARTICIPATION RAILWAY INDUSTRY

# Conclusion

- ▶ · Railways are transformative for rural Iraq's economy and social cohesion.
- ▶ · Strategic investments can position Iraq as a regional logistics hub.
- ▶ · Call to Action: Accelerate IREM Project implementation and community engagement.

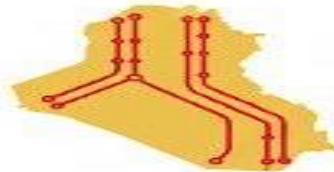
## Conclusion & Call to Action

### Transformative Benefits



- Railways are transformative for rural Iraq's economy and social cohesion.

### Strategic Positioning



- Strategic investments can position Iraq as a regional logistics hub.

### CALL TO ACTION



Accelerate IREM Project Implementation



Enhance Community Engagement

- Accelerate IREM Project implementation and community engagement.



**THANK YOU**