Assessment Report on the Digital Landscape in Iraq 2023 UNDP

Wafaa Fawzi

About

Al–Bayan Center for Planning and Studies is an independent, nonprofit think tank based in Baghdad, Iraq. Its primary mission is to offer an authentic perspective on public and foreign policy issues related to Iraq and the region.

Al–Bayan Center pursues its vision by conducting independent analysis, as well as proposing workable solutions for complex issues that concern policymakers and academics.

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Report of the United Nations Development Program in Iraq, presenting the overall landscape of digital maturity in the Iraqi public sector in 41 areas of e-government (Political will and support, coordination, funding model, legal framework, digital data and databases, secure data exchange, digital identity and secure digital signature, digital skills, access to services and awareness, electronic participation and democracy, information security, telecommunications and digital infrastructure, new technologies and innovation, international cooperation).

The report includes definitions of various technology, governance and cybersecurity terms such as 3G, CIRT, CIO, GDP, and e-governance.

The report focuses on assessing the current status of electronic platforms and digital technology in Iraq, including internet penetration, mobile use, social media platforms, and digital infrastructure in general.

The bulk of the report discusses e-government development and digital maturity in Iraq and presents three main themes: rapid integrated assessment, assessment of digital maturity, and assessment of constraints.

It also highlights the importance and necessity of digital transformation that manifested itself during the COVID-19 pandemic and the Government's efforts to that end. and also refers to several impediments to the unclear objectives and outcomes of the e-government steering committee, Insufficient funding for digital services training programs,

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* Researcher.

and challenges in educational infrastructure in addition, Emphasizes the need for a national portal for electronic services and digital skills development and concludes with nine key recommendations, including the formulation of a long–term strategy for digital government and to manage and coordinate digital government and ensure access to basic ICT infrastructure.

The main recommendations are as follows:

1– Long–term digital government strategy: Develop and adopt a long–term digital transformation strategy at the political level to ensure consistency in the financing of public ICT and to determine the organizational preparation for implementation.

2– Managing and coordinating digital government: establishing multispectral cooperation and nominating a spokesperson or institution dedicated to e–governance.

3– Methodological legal analysis: a systematic legal analysis of the legal building blocks of e–governance before initiating the process of long–term strategy formation.

4– Coherence of ICT public funding: ensuring coherence in ICT public funding through the implementation of the Government's long–term digital strategy.

5– Digital data and interoperability: improving data management and ensuring secure data exchange through interoperability measures.

6– Cybersecurity: Development of a unified cybersecurity policy and risk management strategy for all public institutions.
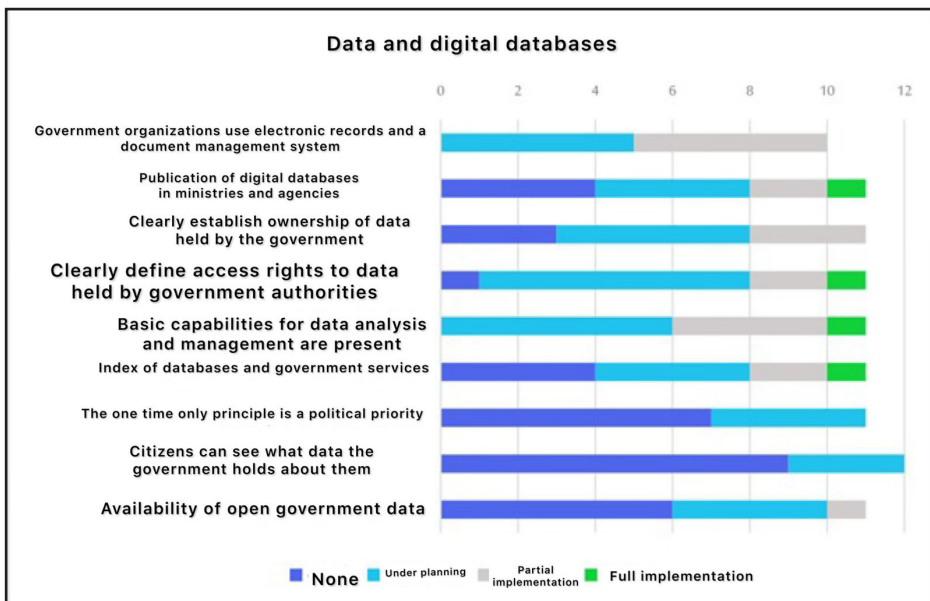
7– Access to ICT infrastructure: ensuring access to ICT infrastructure for all individuals and organizations.
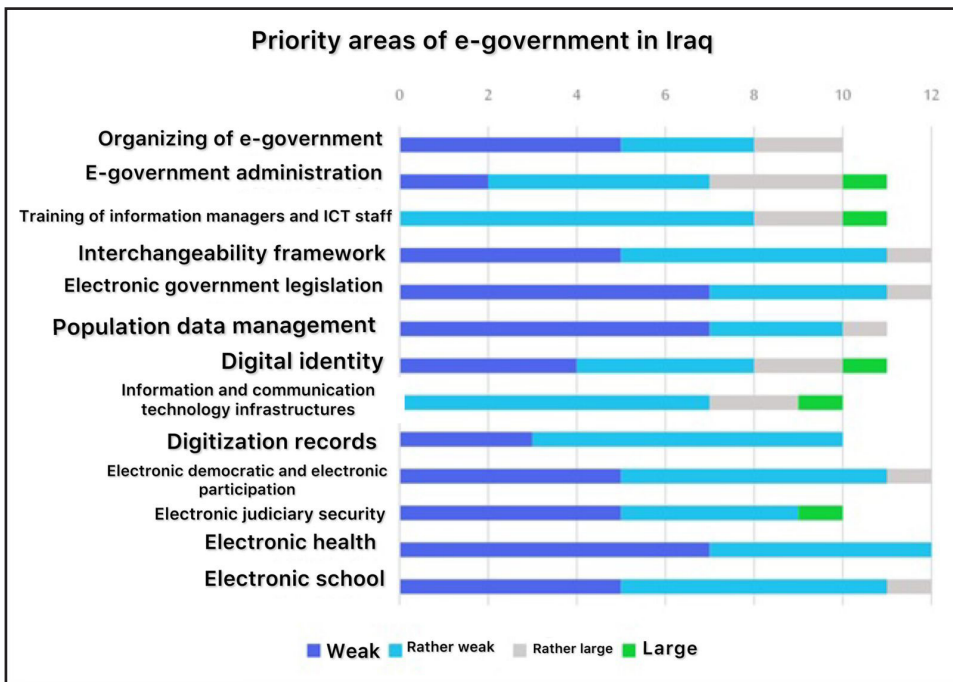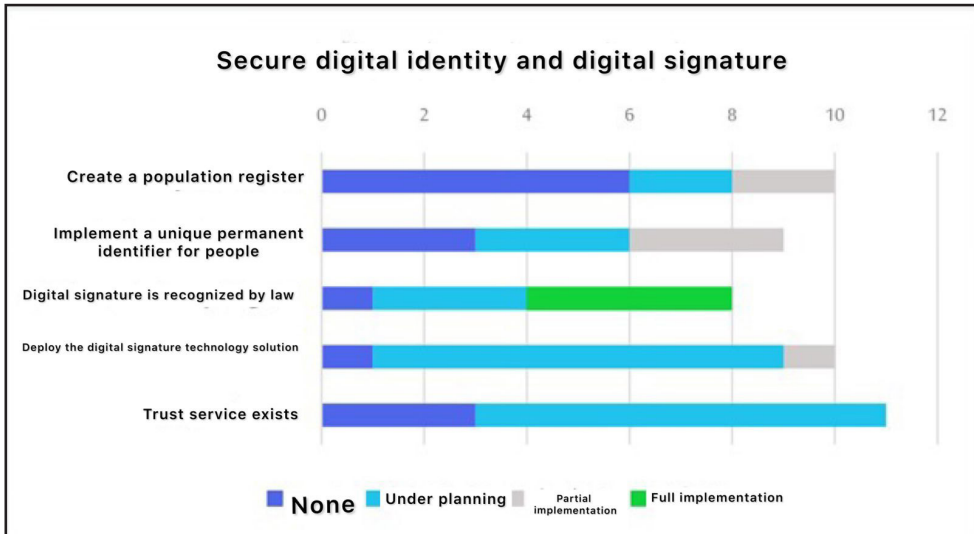
8– Identity and access to services: the development, integration, and widespread use of digital identity services and digital signatures.
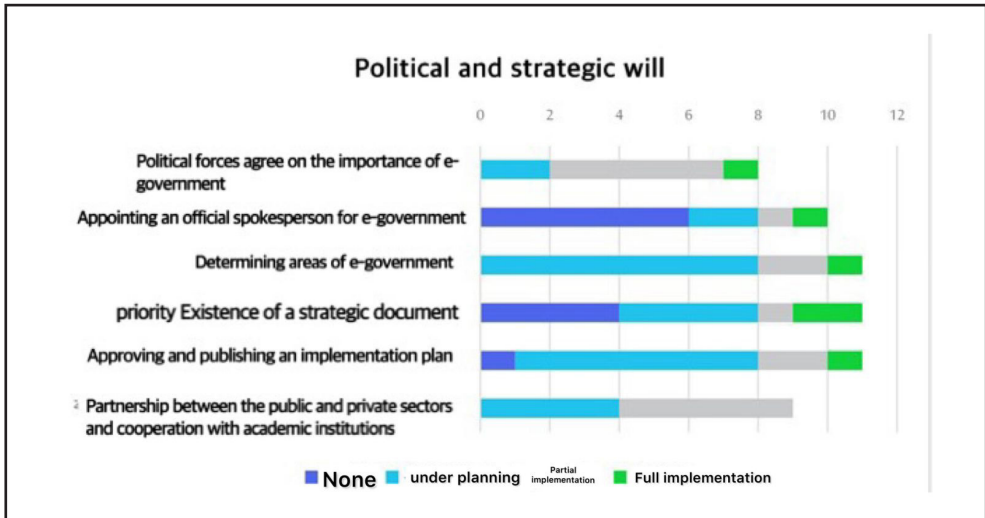
9– Digital skills: promotion of digital skills through training and education programs.

Overview of replies to the questionnaire by 12 Iraqi government institutions

General Secretariat Council of Ministers, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Communications, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance, Border Crossings Authority, Information and Communications Authority, Federal Public Service Council, National Intelligence Service.

Data and digital databases

Secure digital identity and digital signature

Priority areas of e-government in Iraq

Source:**https**://**www**.**undp**.**org**/ar/**iraq**/**publications**/**digital–landscape–assessment–iraq**