



## Iraq: Local eID and ePassport production

## helps unlock young population's potential

A Veridos case study

### Tailored identity and passport solutions to meet a region's evolving needs

Iraq is a vibrant economy within the Middle East. Lying at the northern end of the Persian Gulf, it borders six neighboring countries.

Today, the abundance of oil has provided Iraq, as well as a number of other Middle Eastern states, with a new strategic and economic importance.

With nearly 60% of its growing population of 40 million people under the age of 25, Iraq has an exciting social and economic future. Reflecting its dynamic approach to

development, the country's transition to electronic identification under Iraqi sovereignty is laying the foundation of trust between citizens and the authorities that is essential to realizing this future.

A robust Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system provided by Veridos, working in close partnership with Iraq's Ministry of the Interior (MoI), is already improving citizens' access to Government services and strengthening public safety.

## Secure legal identities that bring forth opportunities for all

Since it was formed in 2015, Veridos has enjoyed a particularly strong presence in Iraq. As a joint venture between two German companies, Giesecke+Devrient (G+D), an international leader in secure technologies, banknote printing, and cash lifecycle systems, and Bundesdruckerei, the State printing service of Germany, Veridos provides a range of physical and digital identity document solutions. Its portfolio includes government

documents, lifecycle management systems, verification software, access and border control solutions and eGovernment services. Its knowledge of the needs of this sophisticated and rapidly growing region is deep, being informed by the earlier presence here of both its parent companies.

Today, Veridos' holistic portfolio is provided in the Middle East region through a Regional Hub.

*A powerful combination of specialist expertise, capacity and resources allows Veridos to implement a full range of solutions tailored to the changing needs of Iraq and its citizens.*

### TRANSFORMING HAND-WRITTEN BOOKS INTO A DIGITAL REGISTER

The longstanding relationship between Veridos and Iraq goes back to 2013 when the MoI awarded a contract to G+D for the development of a new national register, capturing data from across the country and converting it into a digital register. Under this contract it also provided eID facilities, including software, hardware and blank cards. This was followed by the building of a factory for this in partnership with the MoI.

On its formation in 2015, Veridos assumed responsibility for the project. To this day G+D itself still has close direct connections with Iraq, both as a parent company of Veridos and as the printer of Iraq's bank notes.

Traditionally Iraq had relied on millions of civil

paper records as its national registry. While implementing the CRVS project, Veridos digitized all relevant old Iraqi records, including handwritten family registers, to ensure that no information was lost. To do this it set up more than 2,500 data acquisition stations in 300 plus cities distributed over all 18 governorates in the country.

The transition from a paper-based to an electronic system, as well as the modernization of the national register and Iraq's national identification system, means that the country is now well equipped to meet current and future requirements in all aspects of identity verification, and particularly in the future development of eGovernment.





## A NATIONAL eID CARD FOR EVERYONE

Iraq's first new National eID Card, a polycarbonate card with an embedded chip, was issued on January 1st, 2016 and has since been progressively rolled out in each of Iraq's districts. By the end of 2021, more than 20 million eID cards have been issued to Iraqi citizens and the aim is to ensure that all citizens will have one within the next few years.

## eID AND ePASSPORT FACTORY CREATES SKILLED LOCAL JOBS

A new identity document factory was constructed by the Iraqi state in 2018 in a 60/40 partnership between Ministry of Interior and the Police Martyrs Fund and Veridos. Located within a highly secured compound close to Baghdad International Airport, the new ISO-compliant, quality-certified factory has enabled the country to produce its own state-of-the-art electronic ID cards and ICAO compliant ePassports on site as well as other security documents. As of 2021, Veridos continues to provide technical expertise and all relevant services and to undertake maintenance activities.

The factory employs over 50 Iraqi citizens and Veridos has provided extensive knowledge transfer on all the necessary technical aspects of production, making it possible to implement all

the latest security features in the identity documents produced there.

Phase one involved the complete production chain for passports. This commenced in January 2019, and the target of the partnership is to produce and manufacture all passports and cards locally, using raw materials supplied by Veridos. The passport line is capable of producing 20,000 passports per day and to date more than 5 million passports have been produced and delivered locally.



*Inauguration ceremony of the production site for the supply of Iraqi security documents: state-of-the-art eID cards and ePassports.*

In its various aspects the working relationship between Iraq and Veridos exemplifies the benefits to governments of developing a strong partnership approach based on trust built over time. The introduction of the new ID card in 2016 was swiftly followed by the construction of a jointly-owned, state-of-the-art ID factory. Extensive knowledge transfer has been undertaken to equip local employees to assume responsibility for the operation of the factory and further developments are already in the pipeline which will guarantee Iraq's sovereignty in respect of a comprehensive range of secure identity products and use cases, such as employee badges and drivers licenses.

*By 2025, all Iraqi citizens will have an eID card.*

## Outlook: the secure and convenient combination of physical and digital identities

Many countries around the world are looking into the further development of secure identity systems appropriate to the digital age. For example, the benefits of an eGovernment platform that is interoperable and expandable are enormous, for governments and citizens alike.

VeriGO® Solutions for eGovernment enable the remote provision of key public services that are consistently and reliably accessible thanks to a robust and secure digital identity. The VeriGO® suite has been designed to reduce administrative costs, securely verify identities remotely, and streamline processes. We also deliver optimized and flexible solutions that can be quickly implemented. Our holistic solutions can also be easily modified to meet the evolving needs of our customers.

Through the combination of physical and digital identities, citizens can access almost every imaginable type of government service – from establishing digital identities, voting in elections and paying taxes to applying for a driver's license or passport and completing transactions via a secure multichannel communication protocol. The more extensive the range of services provided, the greater the savings to the State in both time and administration costs. The creation of highly secure digital identities that are accessible through smartphones is another example of the innovation that will allow partners to deliver their services to citizens in a timely, convenient and highly cost-effective way.

eGovernment is the transformation of government processes to provide efficient, convenient & transparent services through automated information & communication technologies. What does that mean for governments and citizens? Access – eGovernment provides access to public services remotely, anytime and from anywhere.

The benefits of eGovernment services are numerous and include factors such as the reduction of administrative costs and automated services and processes are timely. Research also shows that the digitalization and automation of government manual processes are strongly desired by citizens worldwide and improve their level of satisfaction. Whether it involves applying for a passport or visa, renewing a driver's license or filling a tax report, eGovernment services allow citizens to quickly solve bureaucratic matters from the comfort of their own home instead of facing lengthy commutes and queues.

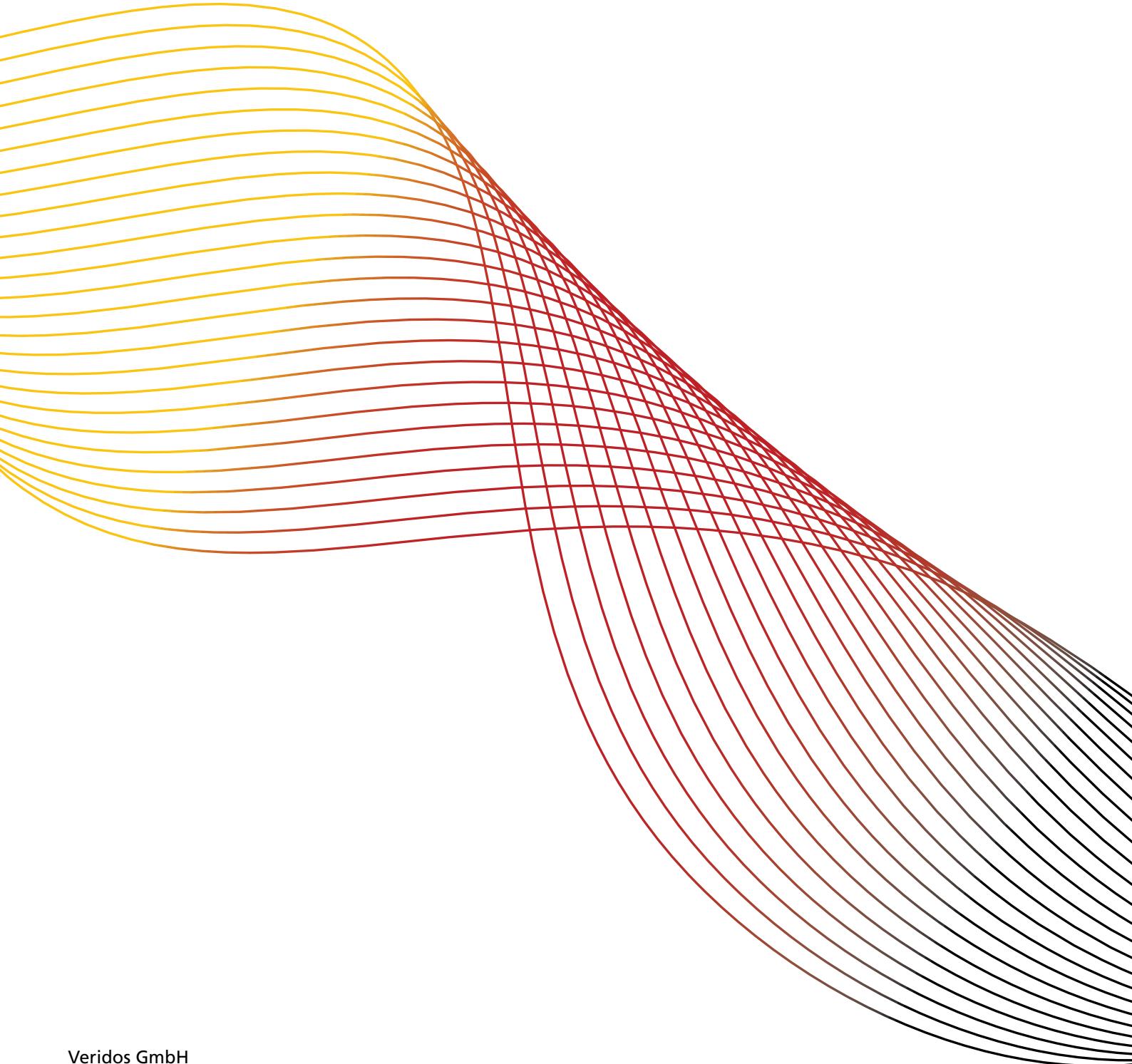
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