

Facial-Recognition Fallback — Iraq's IHEC Adds Face Biometrics to Voter Verification for the 2025 Election

AI in the Public Sector · Good practice · Iraq

Quality score: 47/100

Evidence strength: Moderate

Summary

Iraq's electoral commission (IHEC) added facial recognition as a fallback for the November 2025 parliamentary election after ~400,000 voters failed fingerprint checks in the 2024 Kurdistan Region vote; up to 5% of a polling station's voters can verify by face alone.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured public value	1/3
Transparency, fairness & accountability	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability beyond pilot	2/3
Governance, capability & sustainability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-24

[Independent High Electoral Commission \(IHEC\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-24

[Biometric Update – Iraq introduces facial recognition for voter verification](#) — accessed 2026-09-24

[ID Tech – Iraq completes biometric voter registration as election nears](#) — accessed 2026-09-24

[Al Jazeera – Special voting begins in Iraq parliamentary polls](#) — accessed 2026-09-24

Cite this — Evidoria. *Facial-Recognition Fallback — Iraq's IHEC Adds Face Biometrics to Voter Verification for the 2025 Election*. Persistent ID: 40b55421-1d76-4bca-8465-a9e4d1eede67.