**Biography of the Deputy Prime Minister**

Qubad Talabani was sworn in as Deputy Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government’s eighth Cabinet in June 2014. The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister are responsible for implementing KRG policy and overseeing the full range of government activities.

In the seventh Cabinet, Mr. Talabani served as Minister and Head of the Department of Coordination and Follow-up, a newly formed governmental department designated as the KRG’s principal policy unit. The Department is mandated to coordinate and follow up decisions and decrees with corresponding governmental institutions and to ensure effective and timely implementation of strategic goals and policies.

From 2006 to 2012 Deputy Prime Minister Talabani was the KRG representative to the United States of America, advocating the government’s position on a wide array of political and economic matters and promoting coordination and partnership between the Kurdistan Region and the United States. Prior to the KRG cabinet unification, Mr. Talabani served as the representative of the KRG–Slemani administration to Washington.

After Operation Iraqi Freedom in the spring of 2003, Mr. Talabani was named Senior Foreign Relations officer for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), operating mainly out of Baghdad and Slemani. There he worked closely with the American-led Coalition Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance, serving as the PUK’s top liaison to the Coalition Provisional Authority and to the US forces in Iraq. Mr. Talabani was also a key negotiator in drafting the Transitional Administrative Law, the forerunner to the current Constitution of Iraq.

Deputy Prime Minister Talabani was born in 1977. His family has been involved in Kurdish politics for decades. His father, Jalal Talabani, is the President of the Republic of Iraq.

Deputy Prime Minister Talabani is married to his wife Sherri, and together they have two children, Ari and Lara. He is fluent in Kurdish and English, and studied in London, where he obtained a B.Sc. in mechanical engineering. He is a keen follower of football, avidly supporting the Manchester United Football Club.