



World Food Programme

# WFP Iraq Country Brief July 2018

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

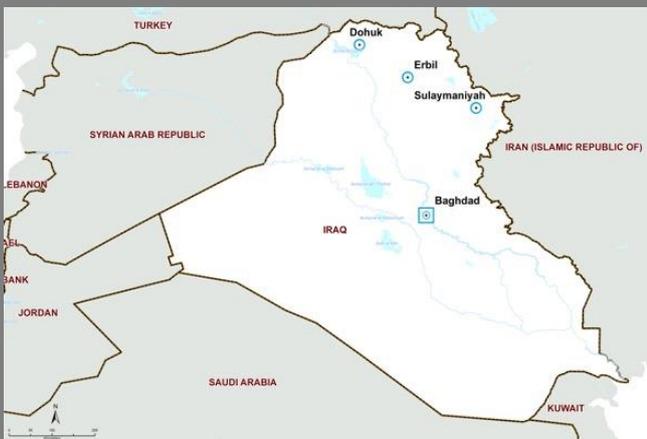


## Operational Context

In April 2014, WFP launched an Emergency Programme to respond to the food needs of 240,000 displaced people from Anbar Governorate. The upsurge in conflict and the concurrent downturn in the macro-economy continues to threaten livelihoods, increase rates of poverty in low economic areas, and contribute to vulnerability and food insecurity, especially among internally displaced persons, women, girls and boys, and the poor. As the situation of the displaced population remains precarious, and needs rise following the return process that began in early 2018, WFP's priority concerns in the country continue to focus on emergency response to displaced people, with additional recovery and reconstruction activities to support returnees.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 2 on Zero Hunger and SDG 17 on Partnerships, WFP is working closely with partners in an effort to support the people of Iraq to achieve zero hunger, promoting an inclusive society, and strengthening partnerships. WFP's assistance is aligned with the 2018 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan, the Recovery and Resilience Programme, and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for the Syria crisis.

In line with the corporate Integrated Road Map process, WFP Iraq has transitioned to a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) starting 01 January until 31 December 2018.



Population: **37.9 million**  
(Government, 2016)

2016 Human Development Index: **121 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Malnutrition: **5-8% of children <5**  
(CFSVA, 2016)

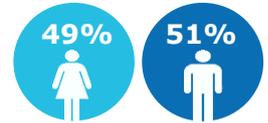
## In Numbers

**4,049 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$4.67m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$32.3 m** six months (August 2018 - January 2019)  
net funding requirements

**571,000 people assisted**  
in July 2018



## Operational Updates

- Returns of displaced Iraqis to their areas of origin continue, with more than 3.9 million returnees and 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of 30 July ([IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix](#)). The highest numbers of returns are recorded in Ninewa Governorate (37.7 percent of the total number of returnees); Anbar Governorate (32.2 percent); and Salah al-Din Governorate (13.8 percent).
- WFP, UNHCR and the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office have released the [Joint Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees](#) in Iraq. The assessment investigated the status of Syrian refugees in camp and out-of-camp settings to determine food-targeting criteria that would allow programme adjustments based on needs. It also addressed long-standing concerns expressed by refugees and local authorities regarding previous targeting.
- WFP is scaling up its Cash for Assets activities to rehabilitate irrigation canals, water systems, and agriculture infrastructures in Baghdad, Anbar, Dohuk and Ninewa governorates. So far, 1,848 individuals participated in the intensive work schemes, benefiting indirectly a population of 11,088.
- In July, WFP has transitioned its general food assistance from in-kind to cash-based transfers in six camps in Sulaymaniyah, Dohuk, and Diyala Governorates.
- Iraq's parliament had mandated a nationwide manual recount following allegations of fraud and replaced the election commissioners with a panel of judges. The manual processing of votes commenced on 3 July in the presence of the electoral commission's members at the provincial electoral offices in Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah, Erbil, Dohuk, Ninewa, Salah Al-Din, and Anbar. The recount excludes Baghdad where a storage site holding half of Baghdad's ballot boxes was burnt earlier this month in an incident.
- Demonstrations have been taking place throughout the country over the past four weeks, demanding delivery of services and job opportunities for the unemployed. The protests, which began in Basra, have spread to eight Iraqi provinces so far. The general security situation within the country over the past weeks had limited impact on WFP operations.

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**Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (01 January - 31 December 2018)**

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2018 – January 2019)
<b>216.8 m</b>	<b>166.2 m</b>	<b>32.3 m</b>

**Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food**

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Food insecure households of IDPs in affected areas have access to life-saving and nutritious food throughout 2018.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

**Activities:**

- Provision of general food assistance in the form of regular cash-based transfers or in-kind monthly food entitlements and ready-to-eat rations in the initial phase of displacement.
- Provision of assistance in schools newly reclaimed and rehabilitated.

**Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food**

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Food insecure Syrian refugees have access to life-saving and nutritious food throughout the year.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

**Activities:**

- Provision of general food assistance to vulnerable refugees.
- Provision of support for resilience and livelihoods activities for Syrian refugees.

**Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food**

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Vulnerable returnees and conflict-affected communities rebuild their assets, recover livelihoods and improve their food security across the country by the end of 2018.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activities:**

- Resilience building through livelihood activities and social protection to support the food insecure.

**Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition**

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Vulnerable groups, including children, adolescents, and pregnant and lactating women and girls have improved nutritional awareness through IYCF, and the government capacity is strengthened to manage fortified food commodities through national safety net programme by end of 2018.

**Focus area:** Resilience building

**Activities:**

- Nutrition capacity strengthening for government partners.

**Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise, and technology**

**Strategic Outcome 5:** Effective coordination for humanitarian support in Iraq

**Focus area:** Crisis response

**Activities:**

- Provision of cluster services and common platforms for the humanitarian community.

**Monitoring**

- In July, WFP conducted 211 site visits to 87 in-kind distribution sites, 25 e-voucher distributions, 23 shops, 59 cash-out points, 2 Immediate Response Ration (IRR) distributions, 4 cash-for-work sites and 11 Tech for Food sites. Additionally, 98 beneficiary monitoring interviews were carried out in the reporting period.
- The Food Security and Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) of Q3 2018 for the Activity 3 (Provision of general food assistance to Syrian Refugees in Iraq) is ongoing, following the training of Kurdistan Region Statistics Office’s enumerators in FSOM data collection. The preliminary findings are expected to be released in September 2018.

**Challenges**

- WFP urgently requires USD 10 million to avoid a pipeline break in the in-kind food assistance from November 2018 to March 2019.

**Donors**

United States of America, Germany, Japan, Qatar, Canada, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, the Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund (IHPF), France and Norway.

**Main Photo**

Credit: ©WFP/Saif al-Tatooz  
Caption: Cash for Assets activities, workers rehabilitate irrigation canals, Iraq