



WFP Iraq Country Brief October 2018

World Food Programme

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 priorities in the country remain emergency response to displaced people, and 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) from 01 January 2018 until 30 June 2019.



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

2018 Human Development Index: **120 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

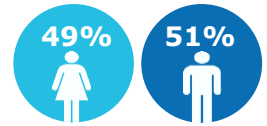
In Numbers

1,469 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$0.96 million cash-based transfers made

US\$64.0 million six months (December 2018 - May 2019) net funding requirements

316,370 people assisted
in October 2018



Operational Updates

- Returns of displaced Iraqis to their areas of origin continue, with almost 4.11 million returnees and 1.86 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of 30 October ([IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix](#)) with the highest number of IDPs in Ninewa, Dohuk, and Erbil. About 738,000 families are reported to be displaced in camps and critical settings, and more than 1.18 million in out-of-camp settings. The highest numbers of returns are recorded in Ninewa Governorate (38.7 percent of the total number of returnees) and Anbar Governorate (31.2 percent).
- Families facing protracted displacement continue to rely on assistance from WFP to meet their basic food needs. Due to limited resources, WFP reduced its assistance to half ration both for in-kind and cash-based transfers (CBT) in September and October. Full entitlements will be restored starting in November 2018 as a result of strong support received from donors.
- The resilience programme has concluded the cleaning of 135km of irrigation canals in Al Tarmiya (Baghdad Governorate). The project also rehabilitated 170 greenhouses in the district, and built 13 animal shelters, 15 fodder storages and 60 bread ovens in Rubiya and Zummar (Ninewa Governorate). All activities have been implemented through cash-for-work schemes.
- As of October, the Tech for Food project scaled up to target 605 participants, half of which were females, across four governorates (Sulaymaniyah, Erbil, Dohuk and Ninewa). Tech for Food is a digital skills training programme tailored to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable youth to enhance their ability to mitigate the effects of protracted displacement through training in IT, digital skillset, and basic English language to help them access the digital marketplace.

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (01 January 2018 - 30 June 2019)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (December 2018 – May 2019)
270.3 m	184.5 m	64.0 m

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 October, WFP conducted 88 site visits. The sites included 37 in-kind distribution sites, 25 e-voucher distributions, 11 shops, 2 cash-out points for IDPs, 1 cash-out point for refugees, 1 Food for Assets site, and 11 Tech-for-Food sites. Additionally, 20 beneficiary monitoring interviews were carried out during the reporting period.
- Enumerators from data collection partners received an introduction briefing to WFP's work in Iraq, and have been trained on mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM), price-monitoring, Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) and baseline/endline data collection for resilience activities.

Challenges

- The Kurdistan Region Security Council (KRSC) highlighted the reemergence of vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED)-based attacks by ISIS during October targeting high-level local leaders, village mukhtars and chiefs. Attacks also targeted electricity infrastructures. Most of the incidents occurred in Kirkuk, Ninewa, and Salah al-Din Governorates.
- The Iraqi Joint Operations reported security incidents in October in Kirkuk, Diyala, Salah al-Din, Ninewa, Baghdad, and Anbar Governorates. The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) have been actively pursuing ISIS elements in western Anbar province.
- The fluid security situation is making the operating environment in some governorates increasingly complicated. Military operations and resurgence of armed groups are prompting WFP Iraq to halt operations in Western Anbar for the foreseeable future. The deterioration of the situation in Ninewa, Anbar, and in some areas of Salah al-Din is slowing growing, threatening future resilience field activities.
- After several months of negotiations, Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi assumed power from his predecessor Mr. Haidar al-Abadi. The partial list of candidates for the Cabinet has been presented to the House of Representatives.

Donors

Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund (IHPF), Japan, Norway, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, United States of America