



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief November & December 2018

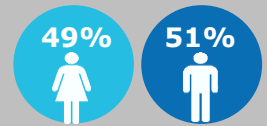
In Numbers

6,718 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$9.88 m cash-based transfers made

US\$58.8 m 6-month (February - July 2019)
net funding requirements

516,741 people assisted
in November & December 2018



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 concurrent downturn in the macroeconomy continue today to increase the poverty rate, threaten livelihoods and contribute to people's vulnerability and food insecurity, especially internally displaced persons (IDPs), women, girls and boys. As the situation of IDPs remains precarious and needs rise following the return process that began in early 2018, WFP's priorities in the country remain emergency assistance to IDPs, and recovery and reconstruction activities for returnees.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 2 "Zero Hunger" and SDG 17 "Partnerships for the Goals", WFP is working with partners to support Iraq in achieving food security and improved nutrition, 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: **38.3 million**
(World Bank, 2017)

2018 Human Development Index:
120 out of 188

People living below National
Poverty Line: **18.9%**

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

* Budget revision under process to extend the TICSP to 31 December 2019. The Country Strategic Plan (CSP) is also under preparation, in line with the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) to start in 2020.

Operational Updates

- Returns of displaced Iraqis to their areas of origin continue, with more than 4 million returnees and 1.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of 31 December ([IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix](#)). Despite the difficulties, 62 percent of IDPs surveyed in camp settings by the [REACH](#) Multi Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) VI indicated their intention to remain in the camps, due to lack of security, livelihoods opportunities and services in their areas of origin.
- Torrential rainfall affected about 32,000 people in Ninewa and Salah al-Din in November 2018. Several IDP camps, roads and bridges were impacted by severe flooding, leading to a state of emergency being declared by authorities, and concerns about the long-term viability of the Mosul Dam. Following the flooding, WFP Iraq delivered 4,000 Immediate Response Ration parcels to beneficiaries in the affected areas in November.
- On 25 November, a 6.3 magnitude earthquake struck western Iran near the border with Iraq. The earthquake was felt throughout Iraq. WFP's operations were not affected. This was the third earthquake within one year.
- Under the resilience programme in Al Hamdania, 441 people participating in cash-for-work activities rehabilitated 130 hectares of olive groves and related irrigation canals in Bashiqa / Bahzani (Ninewa), while 432 people participating in activities under the Al Zab scheme completed the cleaning of 20,406 m³ of dirt from 41km of sub canals and shoulders.
- WFP is partnering with Iraq's Ministry of Trade, providing technical expertise and support to modernise the Public Distribution System (PDS), aiming to provide more efficient services to citizens, prioritise those most in need, and improve management and efficiency of the PDS operations. While the official launch of the first phase is in January 2019, a trial to identify requirements, test available digital solutions and demonstrate their potential is ongoing.
- A follow up exercise with the Syrian refugees who graduated from the Tech for Food training was completed in Sulaymaniyah, Erbil and Duhok in December. The results showed that about 20 percent of the beneficiaries so far had secured a new contract or job as a result of the training.

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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)
270.3 m	203.5 m	58.8 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 livelihoods activities and social protection to support the food insecure.

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 November 2018, WFP conducted 156 site visits. The sites included 61 in-kind distribution sites, 22 e-voucher distributions, 18 shops, 45 cash-out points, 4 Food-Assistance-for-Assets sites and 6 Tech-for-Food sites. 44 beneficiary monitoring interviews were carried out in November.
- In December 2018, WFP conducted 155 site visits including 39 in-kind distribution sites, 24 e-voucher distributions, 19 shops, 59 cash-out points for IDPs, 8 cash-for-work, 1 cash-out point for refugees and 5 sites for Tech-for-Food projects. 40 beneficiary monitoring interviews were carried out in December.

Challenges

- A WFP survey conducted in November & December 2018 - to assess the household food security of WFP-assisted IDPs in central and north Iraq including the Kurdistan Region - showed that the majority of people assisted are still buying food on credit, which may affect their longer-term ability to cope. This may also be due to the halved general food assistance rations in September and October.
- Several vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED)-based attacks took place across the country during the month of November, targeting civilians as well as the Directorate to Combat Violence against Women in Sulaymaniyah. Most of the incidents occurred in Kirkuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Baghdad governorates. A further VBIED was intercepted in December. The Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) continue to actively pursue ISIS elements in western Anbar governorate.
- The deterioration of the situation along the main supply routes and remote countryside areas could risk hampering the implementation of future deep field activities.

Donors

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