



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



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Iraq

Humanitarian Response Plan 2019



to assist

170 000 people



FAO requires

USD 30 million



period

January–December 2019

Vulnerable populations' resilience and capacity to cope has been significant, but are increasingly exhausted for those in protracted displacement. It is important that early recovery activities to revitalize food production and restore livelihoods of returning families are prioritized in 2019.

The humanitarian context has entered a new stage. Despite Iraq's post-conflict status, which has allowed for the return of 4 million IDPs to their areas of origin, 2 million people still remain displaced. Meanwhile, unpredictable dynamics and new sources of instability could cause small-scale new displacement and set back efforts, particularly rebuilding the agriculture sector – a major provider of employment and income in rural and peri-urban areas.

Objectives

FAO is working with partners in the Food Security Cluster to:

- Provide agricultural inputs and services to help restore fragile livelihoods and assist returning or vulnerable families.

Activities



Rehabilitate irrigation systems and agricultural infrastructure

water-sharing arrangements | water efficiency and management | cash for work



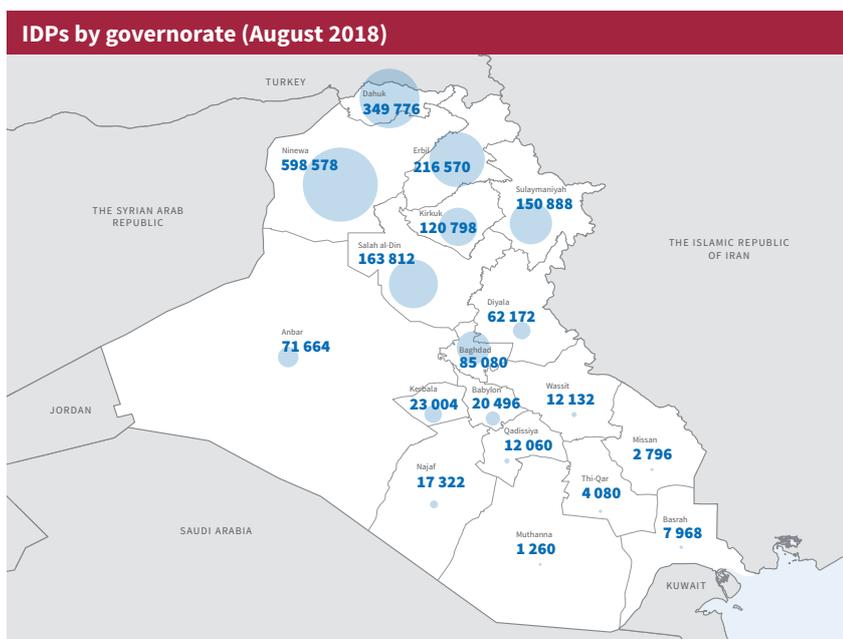
Increase food production

seeds | animal fodder production, conservation and marketing | vegetable production and marketing | homestead-based poultry production | restocking of small ruminants | homestead-based agri-food processing and microenterprise development | animal health | small-scale dairy processing and marketing



Strengthen information and early warning systems

conflict-sensitivity and monitoring | capacity building and technical assistance | disease surveillance and control



Source: IOM, August 2018

Situation analysis

-  **718 000** people food insecure
-  **1.9 million** IDPs
-  **4.1 million** returnees

Impact on food security

Vulnerable host and IDP households remain at risk of becoming food insecure due to growing pressures on declining livelihoods, unsustainable coping strategies and protracted displacement. An estimated 380 000 returnees and 38 000 people in host communities are food insecure. Governorates with the highest returnee populations who are food insecure are Anbar (63 000), Diyala (20 000), Ninewa (162 000) and Salah al-Din (76 000). Among these returnees, significant food consumption gaps, high expenditure on food and negative coping strategies were observed. Across all categories of people in need, female-headed households are the most vulnerable. Insufficient livelihood, rehabilitation and development nexus activities in areas of return and areas where host populations reside may see an increase in the number of food insecure people. Lack of livelihoods risks increasing the caseload dramatically as a result of a number of people resorting to negative coping strategies to cover basic food needs.

Agricultural, fishery, and livestock activities are low across Iraq due to looting and damage caused to agricultural tools and machinery, which are difficult to replace due to inflated prices. Rural livelihood and resilience activities targeting returnees and host communities in Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din are priority needs. The provision of agricultural inputs and services to help restore fragile livelihoods and assist returning or vulnerable families is a fundamental food security objective that should be further prioritized. In addition to the already food insecure people, some 22 percent of returnees, 25 percent of host communities and 16 percent of IDPs are designated as potentially vulnerable to food insecurity, particularly in Ninewa, Salah al-Din, and Dahuk governorates. In 2019, FAO aims to support the transition of agriculture, livelihoods and food production towards recovery for smallholder farmers through activities that feed into long-term rehabilitation.

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