



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief April 2019

In Numbers



293,444 people assisted in April 2019

1,066 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 3.15 million cash-based transfers made

USD 62.1 million six months (May–October 2019) net funding requirements

Operational Context

Intermittent conflict continues to aggravate the poverty rate and threaten livelihoods in Iraq. As the situation and needs of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees remain precarious following the return process that began in 2018, WFP Iraq's assistance focuses on saving lives and protecting livelihoods – supporting the Government of Iraq's social safety nets towards zero hunger. Through emergency assistance to IDPs and refugees, and recovery and reconstruction activities for returnees, WFP is helping the Iraqi government reduce vulnerability and build people's resilience and food security - especially for IDPs, refugees, women, girls and boys.

Working towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – in particular SDG 2 “Zero Hunger” & SDG 17 “Partnerships for the Goals” – WFP is collaborating with partners to support Iraq in achieving food security and improved nutrition, promoting an inclusive society and strengthening cooperation. WFP's assistance is aligned with the Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan, the UN Recovery and Resilience Programme framework, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for the Syria crisis, the General Framework of the National Plan for Reconstruction and Development, and Iraq's National Poverty Reduction Strategy. In line with the corporate Integrated Road Map process, WFP Iraq transitioned to a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) from 01 January 2018 until 31 December 2019.



Population: **39 million** (Ministry of Trade, 2019)

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

Poverty rate: **22.5%** (World Bank, 2017)

2.5 million food insecure people (OCHA Humanitarian Response Plan, 2019)

Operational Updates

- In April, WFP delivered food assistance to over 293,440 people in 10 governorates, reaching 62 percent of the monthly target of approximately 476,410 people. Due to pipeline shortages, WFP is currently distributing every 6 weeks. In addition, heavy rains and cold weather slowed down beneficiaries' redemptions of cash entitlements in Sulaymaniyah's downtown shops, which are now back on track. In Ninewa, due to floods and the Qayarah Bridge closure, WFP commodities could not reach 9 large camps. Distribution for these camps will be in May. E-voucher distributions in Duhok were also delayed to May due to technical issues.
- WFP conducted its strategic second working group meeting with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and the Ministry of Trade (MoT), which oversees Iraq's Public Distribution System of food rations (PDS). The working group aims to enhance coordination and ensure WFP's backstopping of government distributions to IDPs. WFP Iraq's sub-offices are replicating these coordination efforts and meetings. In camps in Ninewa, Duhok and Erbil, this allowed WFP to promptly top up MoMD's food rations (22.3 kg) with 50 kg cereals and lentils, or with IQD 11,000 cash-based transfers (CBT).
- WFP is working on planning its June distribution in a way to ensure IDPs and refugees receive their food before the Eid celebrations in early June.
- EMPACT (Empowerment in Action, formerly Tech for Food) relaunched this month, in Salah al-Din, Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region KR-I. Classes have started in basic IT and English. Outreach has begun for the classes in Mosul.
- The resilience projects to rehabilitate destroyed canals in Ramadi, Anbar, are 81 percent complete, while reconstruction of the water pumping stations is 86 percent complete. These will eventually bring water to returnees living and working on 8625 hectares of land. In Rabia, Ninewa WFP donated a vehicle to the Department of Water Resources, to enable improved monitoring of the resilience projects.

Contact: Sharon Rapose (sharon.rapose@wfp.org)

Country Director: Sally Haydock

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/iraq

Photo Caption: Kabartu 1 IDP camp, Duhok, Kurdistan Region KR-I.

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Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (01 January 2018–31 December 2019)*

| Total Requirements (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 270.3 m | 227.8 m |
| BR 03 Requirements to 30 June 2019* (in USD) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (May – October 2019) |
| 91.3 m | 62.1 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 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.

Focus area: Nutrition capacity strengthening for Government partners

Activities:

- Iraqi institutions receive capacity strengthening training in order to improve nutrition of children, adolescents and pregnant and lactating women and girls across the country.

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.

*The ongoing Budget Revision – BR 04 – will bring the Total TICSP budget to 341 m, and the 2019 Total Requirements to 162 m. The pending BR04 approval is expected in June.

Monitoring, Assessments

- An IDP targeting exercise is ongoing with MoMD with the final results expected in early June. Initial results highlight that around 16 percent of IDPs have some form of income.
- In April 2019, WFP conducted 157 site visits, including 80 in-kind distribution sites, 39 e-voucher distributions, 13 shops, 20 cash-out points for internally displaced people (IDPs), 3 Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) through cash, one EMPACT (formerly Tech for Food) and one cash-out point for refugees. Additionally, 37 beneficiary monitoring interviews were carried out in April.
- An Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey (IHSES) workshop was held in Erbil on 3 April. The Government of Iraq accepted WFP's recommendation to include Food Security parameters in its national survey. WFP Iraq will be one of the few countries globally with food security data and analysis at the district level.
- The assessment mission on the feasibility of transitioning from e-vouchers to Mobile Money Transfers (MMT) concluded. WFP Iraq presented its findings to its Cash Working Group. These included: that beneficiaries have free access to markets; the beneficiary preference is towards cash; there are markets within all camps and outside; mobile network coverage is good in all camps - though in some camps there will be a need for mobile Points of Sale; and all camps are near urban settlements. The recommendations are to: switch to MMT in all camps from July 2019; develop tailored and targeted communication and sensitisation materials; begin engagement with partners; and inform contracted retailers about the impending switch.

Funding and Pipeline update

- The total shortfall for the TICSP from May to December is USD 98.1m. Pipeline breaks are immediate for IDPs and due to a lack of funds, WFP is on a six-week distribution. For resilience projects, WFP is seeking USD 30m to continue the scale up in 2019.

Donors

(in alphabetical order)

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund (IHPF), Japan, Kuwait, Multilateral Funds, Norway, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, UN Funds excl. CERF.