

WFP Iraq Situation Report #4

April 2019



In Numbers

1.67 million people displaced (IOM)

4.27 million returnees (IOM)

260,587 Iraqis assisted by WFP

253,371 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

32,857 Syrians assisted by WFP

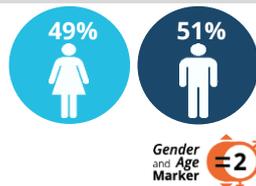
Highlights

- In April, WFP delivered food assistance to over 293,400 people in 10 governorates, reaching over 259,300 IDPs and about 32,900 Syrian refugees.
- WFP conducted its second strategic 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). This aims to enhance coordination and ensure WFP's backstopping of government distributions to IDPs. Efforts are being replicated by sub-offices at Governorate level.

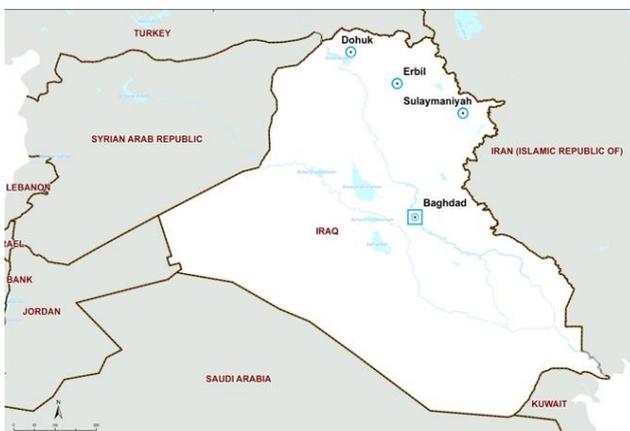
People assisted

293,444

April 2019



Global Humanitarian Funding to Iraq in 2019	Overall: USD 701.2 m
	WFP share: USD 14.3 m
WFP Net Funding Requirements	
Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) (May 2019 – October 2019)	USD 62.1 m



**An ongoing Budget Revision – BR 04 – will bring the Total TICSP budget to 341 m, and the 2019 Total Requirements to 162 m. It is expected that BR 04 will be approved in May.*

Situation Update

- At the start of April, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) announced a new offensive. The second week of April started with a major surge in violence. The Iraqi security forces conducted a raid into the Hamrin mountains which may have disrupted this new campaign, accounting for the lower number of incidents in the latter half of April.
- Rains continued to swell the rivers and caused disruption to roads and bridges across Ninewa and north eastern Iraq. In the south, the water continued to flood farmlands, rendering them unusable. Due to floods and the Qayarah Bridge closure, WFP commodities could not reach nine large camps in Ninewa. Distributions for these camps will be in May.
- Heavy rains and cold weather slowed down beneficiaries' redemptions of cash entitlements in Sulaymaniah's downtown shops, which are now back on track.
- For activities targeting IDPs, limited resources forced WFP to adopt a 6-week distribution cycle and pipeline breaks are expected in May. For resilience projects, WFP is seeking USD 30m to continue scaling up its activities.

Photo: A participant to the EMPACT programme.

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WFP Response

Supply Chain

- Heavy rains affected the pontoon (5th) bridge in Mosul on the route to Ninewa camps, which now have truck weight restrictions of 20MT. To facilitate movement, the Logistics Unit detoured deliveries through Baghdad, obtaining the required clearance for movement from Erbil to Ninewa and from Baghdad to Ninewa.
- A new Baghdad warehouse lease has been confirmed to reflect the current requirements, reducing warehouse size from 6,000 to 1,500 sqm and saving some USD 18,000 per month.

Assessments

- An IDP targeting exercise is ongoing with MoMD with the final results expected in early June.
- WFP concluded its assessment to explore the feasibility of switching from e-vouchers to cash through Mobile Money Transfers (MMT) for the IDP and Syrian refugee camps, including a micro IT assessment. The findings presented to the Cash Working Group showed that beneficiaries' preference is towards cash; beneficiaries have free access to markets and there are markets within all camps and outside; mobile network coverage is good (2G/3G) 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 the 13 camps assessed starting from July 2019 (reaching around 50,000 IDPs and 33,500 refugees); develop tailored and targeted communication and sensitisation materials; begin engagement with partners; and inform contracted retailers about the upcoming switch to MMT.
- Since WFP Iraq circulated the new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2020-2024 Concept Note early this year, there has not been any significant increase in the number of returnees; instead most people have remained in camps. Therefore, WFP Iraq is planning to increase the number of GFA beneficiaries from 210,000 to 250,000 in the first year of the new CSP, beginning in January 2020. The Humanitarian Country Team recently decided that there will be a Humanitarian Response Plan in 2020.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- Improved coordination with ministries is enabling WFP to effectively complement the government's assistance. In camps in Ninewa, Duhok and Erbil, this allowed WFP to promptly top up MoMD's food rations (22.3 kg) with 50 kg of cereals and lentils, or with IQD 11,000 per person cash-based transfers (CBT).
- For Mobile Money Transfers (MMT), WFP started working with additional service providers (Zain Cash / Iraq Wallet) to ensure operational capacity in areas not covered by the service provider Asia Hawala.
- WFP is continuing to arrange Communication with Communities (CwC) and outreach activities to inform and raise awareness among IDPs assisted, around the new 6-week distribution cycle and the reduction in CBT payments, and in-kind in those locations where MoMD is also distributing food assistance, plus refugee caseload re-adjustment and transition from e-vouchers to MMT.
- WFP is supporting the Ministry of Trade with modernising its Public Distribution System (PDS), which is the country's biggest food ration safety net. The trial phase testing new technology has rolled out to Anbar, Baghdad, Basra, Duhok, Maysan, Al-Najaf and Ninewa, including Khazer IDP camp in Ninewa governorate. WFP has supported the CwC strategy with the Ministry of Trade for PDS pilot in Kazher camp, Ninewa to ensure information sharing and access in order to maximize the IDP registrations in the new PDS digital system.
- The Food for Training / EMPACT initiative (formerly Tech for Food) relaunched this month in Salah al-Din, Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region KR-I. EMPACT helps young refugees and the communities hosting them to build a brighter future through skills development for sustainable livelihoods. 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 bring water to people living and working on 8,625 hectares of land.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- The Ministry of Migration Displacement representative in Duhok participated in the monthly FSC meeting, helping move towards better coordination with WFP and the Board of Relief and Humanities Affairs (BRHA), with the FSC providing an added channel for communication.



Logistics Cluster

- Since the Logistics Cluster stopped operating in March, a member of the team is continuing to manage cross-border operations with Syria,

which are currently at a low level, until 30 June 2019. The Logistics Unit has now taken the lead of the Logistics Sector and any required follow-up items.

Contacts

- Country Director: Sally Haydock
- Sharon Rapose, Communications and Reporting Officer: sharon.rapose@wfp.org
- Teklemariam Moges, Logistics Coordinator: teklemariam.moges@wfp.org
- Las Rashid, FSC Coordinator: las.rashid@wfp.org

For further information, visit the WFP Iraq page: wfp.org/countries/iraq

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP), 01 January 2018 - 31 December 2019)*						
	Total TICSP Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (May 2019 - October 2019)	People Assisted (March 2019)	Female	Male
TICSP TOTAL (Jan 2018 - Dec 2019)	270.3 m	228.8 m	62.1 m	293,444	143,788	149,656

*The ongoing Budget Revision – BR 04 – will bring the Total TICSP budget to 341 m, and the 2019 Total Requirements to 162 m. It is expected that BR 04 will be approved in May.