



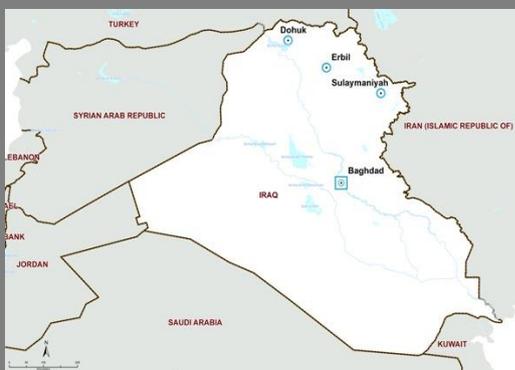
SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Iraq Country Brief August 2019

Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict continues to aggravate the poverty rate and threaten livelihoods. Following the return process that began in 2018, the situation and needs of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees remain precarious. 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)

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

2018 Human Development Index:
120 of 188 (lowest)

1.61 million IDPs (IOM)
228,851 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

In Numbers

400,782 people assisted
in August 2019



1,953.7 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 3.69 million cash-based transfers made

USD 51.3 million six months (October 2019 –
March 2020) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- In August, WFP delivered food assistance to 400,782 people in 9 governorates, reaching 87 percent of the monthly target of 462,646 people. Some delays were experienced because of the Eid holidays and sudden changes in the Joint Monitoring and Coordination Center (JCMC) clearance process for food transport.
- Since 23 August, Ninewa governorate authorities have begun relocating IDPs who are not from Ninewa to their governorates of origin, often with little notice or apparent planning. The situation on the ground is fluid, and reported numbers fluctuate, but approximately 300 families (an estimated 1600 people) have been returned from Hamam Al Alil, Salamiyah and Nimrud camps in Ninewa to locations in Anbar, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din governorates. In response, WFP is moving Family Food Rations (FFRs) for its next distribution cycle to those areas to support the transferred families.
- WFP is also prepositioning Immediate Response Rations (IRRs) in Anbar, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din, and coordinating with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) and other partners to ensure that potential gaps in coverage are filled. WFP has held off distributions to the transferred families until September, as some NGOs delivered food rations to them in late August.
- WFP Iraq is continuing to coordinate with MoMD on meeting the food needs of IDPs. From March until July, more than 45 percent of WFP's caseload received a “top up” to complement the government's assistance. This represented 65 to 70 percent of WFP's usual food basket and has resulted in a cash saving of some USD 2.3 million or the equivalent of 1,900 mt.
- Communication with Communities (CwC) on the transition from food to cash assistance is ongoing. WFP plans to transition to 100 percent cash assistance by the end of the year.
- As part of the testing phase of the digitalisation of Iraq's social safety net, the Public Distribution System

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Photo: Launch of the iris scanning verification as part of the digitalisation of the PDS food ration safety net.
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Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TISCP, 01 January 2018–31 December 2019)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
341.1 m	240 m
Total Requirements for 2019 (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2019 – March 2020)
162.1 m	51.3 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1 (SO 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 (SO 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 (SO 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 (SO 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 (SO 5): Effective coordination for humanitarian support in Iraq

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provision of cluster services and common platforms for the humanitarian community.

(PDS), the Iraqi Minister of Trade Mohammed Hashem Al-Ani officially launched iris scanning verification. Citizens now have the possibility to have their iris scanned as a method of authentication, when they collect their food rations. The citizens have reacted positively to iris scanning as a convenient method of capturing and authenticating their biometric data. The iris scanning roll-out will now be expanded to Al-Muthana and Thi-Qar governorates, and Sadr city in Baghdad.

- Preparations are ongoing to resume School Feeding for the new academic year in October. Cooperating partners have been shortlisted, and recruitment of the new team is ongoing.

Monitoring and Assessments

- In August 2019, WFP conducted 106 site visits, including 26 in-kind distribution sites, 72 cash-out points for internally displaced people (IDPs) and Syrian refugees, and 8 EMPACT (formerly Tech for Food). 33 beneficiary monitoring interviews were also carried out. WFP is following up on locations where CwC information and flyers were missing.
- WFP Iraq's Resilience team is working with the Asset Impact Measurement System (AIMS) to chart the impact of resilience projects using satellite imagery. The system can, for instance, monitor the expansion of vegetation coverage following irrigation and water management projects, canal and pumping stations rehabilitation. The collected data is currently undergoing analysis.
- Together with the Board of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs (BRHA), planning is ongoing for the second phase of the IDPs targeting exercise in three selected IDP camps in Duhok. The targeting data collection team of the Kurdistan Region Statistical Organisation (KRSO) will be trained on a new Open Data Kit (ODK) tool that focuses on income, expenditure and asset indicators.

Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP needs an additional USD 51.3 million to ensure that operations can continue without interruption through February 2020. WFP specifically calls for donors to support SO 1 (IDPs) and SO 3 (resilience).

Donors

Principal donors to the TISCP:

Germany, United States, Government of Iraq, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, Australia, France.

Other significant donors to the TISCP include:

Republic of Korea, UN Funds, Qatar, Denmark, Kuwait, Norway, Russia, Belgium, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Iceland, Private Donors, Romania.