



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief September 2020

In Numbers



381,843 people assisted
in September 2020*

0.65 mt of in-kind assistance distributed

USD 4.21 million distributed through cash-based transfers

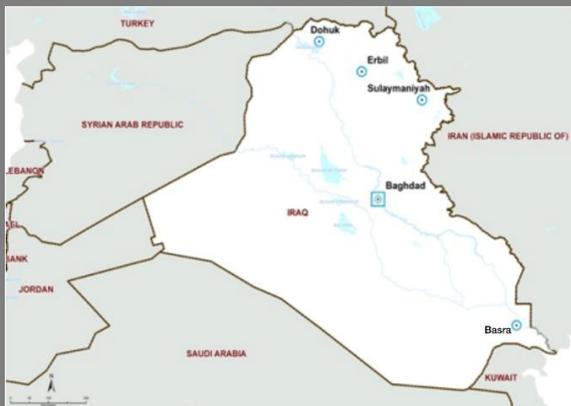
USD 24.2 million six months net funding requirements (November 2020 – April 2021)

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. The challenges of rebuilding infrastructure, providing basic services, promoting social cohesion, creating jobs, developing skills, and progressing towards gender equality whilst maintaining security have impeded the country's efforts to make progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 2: Zero Hunger.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2020-2024 in Iraq has an all-encompassing goal of supporting the Government of Iraq to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, shifting WFP's role from implementer to enabler. This is critical in the transitioning from immediate crisis response to greater resilience, and longer-term peace and development. Mainstreaming gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive programming is also key.

The first case of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 was recorded in Iraq on 24 February. Given the increasing cases reported by the Ministry of Health, and the decision taken by the Iraqi Government to limit gatherings, WFP and its partners are taking additional measures to safeguard the health and wellbeing of people assisted.



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

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

2019 Human Development Index:
120 of 188 (lowest)

1.30 million IDPs (IOM)
242,704 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

Operational Update & COVID-19 Response

- In September, WFP delivered cash and food assistance to 256,235 IDPs, 69,634 refugees, and 55,974 returnees and people from vulnerable communities, through Food for Assets (FFA), Urban Livelihoods and EMPACT programmes, reaching 98 percent of the operational plan in 12 governorates.
- WFP's assistance in camps included an additional 38,862 vulnerable refugees and IDPs reached as part of the ongoing COVID-19 response. WFP continues to consider appeals from families via special helpdesks in camps, to include in the next cycle of assistance. For the fourth month, ready-to-eat food packages with Immediate Response Rations were again distributed to some 105 quarantined people in camps.
- Alongside COVID-19 concerns, the security situation remains precarious. Some demonstrations also continue. Meanwhile, many movement restrictions have been lifted, except for some quarantine measures for visitors. Increased movement/border restrictions will be in place for the Arbaeen pilgrimage in October.
- WFP is continuing to monitor the situation in Sinjar, and in October/November will be supporting around 22,000 newly returned IDPs, at the request of the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD). The families will receive Family Food Rations (FFRs), enough for one month. WFP and its partner WHH are also planning a livelihoods / resilience project in Sinjar to support returnees.
- The Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) continued to distribute assistance to families in IDP camps over the period January – September. WFP's coordination is ongoing, providing complementary, smaller "top-ups" of assistance accordingly. This has resulted in savings of USD 10.6 million so far, over the nine-month period.
- WFP's rural and urban livelihoods programmes continue across Iraq, supporting up to 138,000 vulnerable people. The community projects are fostering skills development to create incomes, while improving or creating key community assets such as irrigation pumps, renovating

Photo: Participants on WFP's resilience projects in Thi-Qar help to clear and restore irrigation canals, to bring water back to the community. The projects also support vulnerable people who lost their livelihoods to earn an income during the pandemic. WFP/Photo Library

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Country Strategic Plan (CSP, 1 January 2020–31 December 2024)

| Total Requirements (in USD) | | Allocated Contributions (in USD) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 473 m | | 151 m |
| Total Requirements for 2020 | Total Requirements 2021 | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (November 2020 – April 2021) |
| 179 m | 95 m | 24.2 m |

Strategic Result 1: Access to food (SDG Target 2.1)

Strategic Outcome 1 (SO 1): Crisis-affected people in Iraq, including IDPs and refugees, are able to meet basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises throughout the year

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provide unconditional food assistance to IDPs, refugees and other crisis-affected people.

Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems (SDG Target 2.4)

Strategic Outcome 2 (SO 2): Targeted communities, including farmers, have enhanced livelihoods and increased resilience to shocks by 2024

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

- Provide livelihood support, asset creation and climate adaptation activities, including capacity strengthening, to targeted farmers and communities.

Strategic Result 5: Capacity strengthening (SDG Target 17.9)

Strategic Outcome 3 (SO 3): National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacities and systems for targeting and assisting food-insecure vulnerable people by 2024

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provide institutional capacity strengthening to government officials and partners.
- Provide support to government officials and partners in enhancing information technology for managing PDS modernization and in strengthening the safety net component of the government social protection system.

- (cont'd from page 1) schools or planting trees. WFP continues to work with Mosul University on capacity strengthening on planning tools for livelihoods projects, as part of the 3-Pronged Approach (3PA) which considers national, sub-national and community level needs.
- WFP's EMPACT "Empowerment in Action" project is ongoing in six governorates, providing digital skills and English training to help attendees improve their job prospects. Training continues via new "virtual classrooms"; laptops were loaned to participants when required, along with facilitating internet access. Extended sessions are being run so that students can catch up on any missed classes, e.g. due to power cuts. On 14 September, the UN Youth Envoy in New York spoke with EMPACT graduate Yasser via Instagram Live, as part of the UN75 initiative.

- WFP is continuing to work with the UNOPS Iraq Information

information on their assistance at the right time, by phone and via their Facebook page. Key messages continue to be shared with all partners.

- The Iraq Country Office has completed preparations to implement WFP's Gender Transformative Programme (GTP), from January 2021. The GTP enhances the integration of gender in programming, operations and throughout the office, through key actions to foster gender equality and women's empowerment.
- Under the School Feeding Programme, WFP is continuing to augment its capacity strengthening work with the Ministry of Education (MoE). The Ministry of Health and MoE are finalizing different scenarios for the reopening of schools, which include distance learning, and different classes attending on rotation.
- WFP is finalising a partnership with UNICEF and UNESCO to include school feeding requirements in the Education Management Information System (EMIS). This new digital system enables MoE to manage and collect school data (e.g. students' attendance), and generate reports to support decision making, resulting in the more effective delivery of educational services. WFP's partnership with UNESCO and UNICEF aims to digitalize the National School Feeding Programme under the EMIS platform.
- WFP is also carrying out – through a dedicated new conflict sensitivity specialist – research and providing insight on its potential contributions to social cohesion, principally in southern Iraq and in Ninewa. This follows last year's [joint research](#) that WFP and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) conducted. This initiative is the first of its kind among WFP offices.

Monitoring and Assessments

- WFP's Hunger Monitoring System found that around 3.5 million people, representing 9 percent of the total population, had insufficient levels of food consumption (28 September), an increase of around 0.32 million since the previous month. Meanwhile, Wassit governorate continued to have a moderately high prevalence of insufficient food consumption. WFP is closely monitoring the food security situation across the country.
- WFP published the second [joint bi-monthly report](#) with FAO, IFAD and the World Bank on food security in Iraq, and the impact of COVID-19. This issue had a special focus on digital innovation to improve food security. Bi-weekly reports continue to be published.

Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP requires an additional USD 24.2 million to ensure that operations can continue without interruption through April 2021.

Donors

WFP would like to thank all donors for their contributions including: Belgium, Canada, ECHO, France, Germany, the Government of Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the United States.