



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief March 2022

Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict and impact of climate change continue to affect the lives of people of Iraq. In post-conflict context, there are approximately 1.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 4.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Insecurity, lack of livelihoods, and destroyed or damaged housing hamper people's ability to return home. WFP Iraq's assistance focuses on saving lives, changing lives: supporting the Government of Iraq's social protection work towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: Zero Hunger. Iraq's progress on the SDGs has been hindered by the challenges of rebuilding infrastructure in areas affected by conflict with ISIL, economic shocks caused by COVID-19, weak institutional performance and governance, climate change, delayed implementation of reforms and inadequate opportunities for youth. The government articulated its development vision and agenda in its National Development Plan and an ambitious economic reform agenda.

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 implementing to enabling and capacity strengthening. This is critical in transitioning from crisis response to resilience building, and for longer-term peace and development.

The rainfall season 2020-21 was one of the driest in the past 40 years, which resulted in a crop failure in rainfed areas. Compared to the previous season, 38 percent lower production is forecast in 2020-21. Recent climate modelling reveals that Iraq is projected to experience record high temperature and reduced precipitation, coupled with water and soil salinity, especially in southern Iraq and this will negatively impact the livelihood of vulnerable populations.



Population: **41.2 million**
(UNFPA 2021)

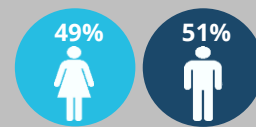
Poverty rate: 24.8% (Ministry of Planning, World Bank, 2021)

2020 Human Development Index:
123 of 189 (lowest)

1.2 million IDPs (IOM)
257,974 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

In Numbers

710,492 people assisted
in March 2022



US\$ 2.25 million distributed in March 2022
through cash-based transfers

1,686 mt of in-kind assistance distributed

US\$ 39.4 million six months net funding
requirements (April – September 2022)

Operational Updates

- In March, WFP provided cash and food assistance to 182,152 internally displaced persons (IDPs), 68,419 refugees, and 8,118 people from vulnerable communities through resilience building initiatives. Through the School Feeding Programme, WFP supported 451,803 children.
- WFP's resilience-building initiatives continue to provide smallholder farmers with the support they need in order to improve their production and increase crop yields. In Ninewa governorate, WFP provided greenhouses, beehives, cattle and seeds to 325 farmers who utilize the knowledge and expertise shared by WFP to provide a sustainable livelihood for themselves and their families.
- WFP collaborated with the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources to organize the second Annual Baghdad International Water Conference, to help highlight and provide solutions to the issues of climate change and water scarcity facing Iraq's people and agriculture. WFP presented its latest data and findings on the issue to support the government of Iraq with its Green Paper to address these serious challenges.
- In its continued efforts to support Iraq's youth, and confront climate change, WFP provided a new solar power system for the Career Development Centre at the University of Sulaymaniyah. The solar energy provided now effectively meets the electricity gap during power cuts or shortages, enabling seamless support to youth in need as they take part in the EMPACT (Empowerment in Action) project. Participation in this project supports students with relevant training in English, digital skills and entrepreneurship that enables them to find work opportunities, start small businesses and provide an income.
- In collaboration with the University of Sulaymaniyah and German creative design platform JOVOTO, WFP celebrated the three young EMPACT graduates Aisha, Mohammed and Kawther, whose designs revolving around the EMPACT project won the first, second and third prizes respectively, in the first design innovation joint competition.
- For International Women's Day on 8 March, Urban Livelihoods participant and trainer Nada was invited by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Baghdad to visit from Basra,

Photo Caption: WFP Deputy Country Director, Maysaa Alghribaw speaks at the 2nd annual Baghdad International Water Conference, highlighting WFP's work on climate change. WFP was a key partner of the Conference with the Ministry of Water Resources and UN agencies.

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

Total Requirements (USD)	Allocated Contributions 2020-2024 (in USD)
601 m	237 m
Total Requirements for 2022*	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April 2022 – September 2022)
141 m	39.4 m

*WFP Iraq is in the process of preparing a Budget Revision which will increase the total 2022 requirements to 141.1 million.

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.

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- to participate in a special event to speak about her journey and experience. The impact of WFP's Urban Livelihoods programme, implemented across southern Iraq and Ninewa, is apparent through star participants such as Nada. She attended the programme, then taught photography skills that she acquired from her training, quickly became a social entrepreneur, leader of a prolific youth creative group, and role model for her contemporaries in Basra.
- Under the School Feeding Programme funded and co-implemented by the Government of Iraq, WFP organized several workshops and training sessions to further develop the capacity of the Ministry of Education, to be able to successfully implement the programme independently in the future, while WFP continues providing technical and logistics support and expertise. These included three Training of Trainers (ToT)

sessions, three capacity building workshops and a Food Quality Control workshop that was delivered in cooperation with WFP's Regional Bureau.

- As part of the joint Social Protection Programme with the government and UN partners, WFP held three consultation workshops for more than 80 Government of Iraq and Kurdistan Regional Government staff members and key Ministerial participants. The workshops produced a roadmap for establishing a Single Registry based on multi-stakeholder discussions. The workshops also initiated dialogue on the improvement of Iraq's social protection schemes with special focus on the public distribution system for food rations (PDS). In addition to multiple Ministry representatives, the workshops were attended by UNICEF, ILO, World Bank, GIZ and UNHCR.
- Representatives of Canada and Germany visited Sharya IDP camp in Duhok and met with a number of displaced families to discuss their situation, reasons that prohibit their return to their homes, and ongoing needs.
- In light of the rise in food prices as a result of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, WFP temporarily increased its cash transfer value to vulnerable IDPs living in Jadaa-5 camp to mitigate the effects and ensure that families are not affected.

Monitoring and Assessments

- In March, WFP conducted 279 monitoring visits, including 82 cash-out points, 28 in-kind distribution points for IDPs and Syrian refugees, 41 livelihood and resilience sites, 13 e-voucher points, 8 shops, 107 school feeding sites. In addition, 42 monitoring interviews were carried out with people assisted.
- WFP published its latest [Market Monitor report](#) in March, which analyzed how the prices of essential food commodities are increasing, impacting the purchasing power of vulnerable Iraqis. Wage rates also remain unchanged over the past two years, and the Ukraine conflict is exacerbating a deteriorating food security situation. The benefits from higher oil prices will be offset by the increased cost of imports. Despite sluggish economic growth, inflation has been on the rise, and with it the risk of stagflation. WFP also presented to donors the impact that the Ukraine crisis in a forum chaired by the Humanitarian Coordinator / Resident Coordinator (HC/RC).

Funding and Pipeline update

- Due to ongoing humanitarian needs and limited funding, WFP's humanitarian assistance will experience break from June. From April, WFP has no funding for its resilience portfolio, including asset creation, climate change and livelihood programmes. WFP requires an additional USD 39.4 million to ensure operations continue without interruption through September.

Donors

WFP thanks all partners for their contributions including Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Government of Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Multilateral Funds, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN Agencies, United States, the World Bank, PepsiCo Foundation, and Individual Donors through #ShareTheMeal.