



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq
Country Brief
June 2023

In Numbers



39,796 people assisted in June 2023

USD 729,087 cash-based transfers made

USD 48.2 million six months (July-December 2023) net funding requirements

Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict as well as the impact of climate change continue to affect the lives of people. There are currently 1.17 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 2.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Insecurity, lack of livelihoods, and destroyed or damaged housing hampers people's abilities to return home. WFP Iraq's assistance focuses on changing lives, saving lives, and supporting the Government of Iraq with social protection reform, youth empowerment, and combatting climate change towards achieving 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, weak institutions and governance, climate change, delayed implementation of reforms and inadequate opportunities for youth.

WFP Iraq continued shifting its role from emergency response to resilience building and long-term sustainable development. This paradigm shift is critical as Iraq is experiencing the adverse effects of climate change (fifth most affected country globally) especially in southern Iraq, which is reflected in reduced rainfall and decreased water levels in the country's two rivers (Tigris and Euphrates) resulting in increased salinity that, in turn, heavily affects agriculture.



Population: **45.5 million** (UNFPA 2023)

2021 Human Development Index: 121121 out of 191191 (lowest)

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

1.15 million IDPs (IOM)
262,218 Syrian refugees in Iraq

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- In June 2023, WFP provided cash assistance to over 2,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Jada'a 1 camp and over 37,000 Syrian refugees in ten other camps through its crisis response programme. The cash assistance for IDPs concluded in May and will continue for refugees until August. However, WFP continues its advocacy for IDPs to be included in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) Social Safety Net (SSN) programme.
- The King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre of Saudi Arabia provided a generous contribution of 240 mt of dates for the benefit of vulnerable populations in Iraq, including Syrian refugees. The donation was handed over in a ceremony attended by the WFP Representative and Country Director, Mr. Ally Reza Qureshi, together with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's Ambassador in Iraq, H.E. Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Shimari, where they emphasized their commitment to enhancing their partnership and discussed potential opportunities for collaboration around food security and climate change.

Livelihoods Support and Climate Change

- As part of the planning phase for the Economic Empowerment activities, discussions are being held with relevant internal and external stakeholders to agree on the way forward. Additionally, WFP participated in the re-activation meeting of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) working group and provided input in contribution to the development of the national TVET policy. The Jousour programme celebrated the graduation of 125 participants in a ceremony held at the University of Sulaymaniyah. The event featured three alumni who shared their personal learning journeys and highlighted their achievements in securing income after their participation in Jousour. The alumni speakers also expressed their appreciation for Jousour's integrated components, especially the entrepreneurship aspect, which contributed to the growth of their businesses. The University of Sulaymaniyah successfully arranged 40 internship positions for Jousour participants in various local private companies and NGOs. The graduation ceremony was also attended by representatives from these organizations to celebrate the graduates' accomplishments.
- As part of WFP's climate change portfolio activities, WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture oversaw the installation of six Agrometeorological automatic weather stations in Baghdad and Basra, along with the necessary practical training.

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Photo Caption: Jousour participants receive their graduation certificates in Sulaymaniyah Governorate. ©WFP

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

Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
601 m	312 m	21%
2023 Requirements (In USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July– December 2023)
80 m		48.2 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.

School Feeding

- The Iraqi parliament approved a budget of 80 billion Iraqi Dinar (USD 50 million) for the national school feeding programme. In this respect, WFP and the Ministry of Education are collaborating at different levels including:
 - developing Iraq's school feeding policy followed by an official programme launch in August,
 - addressing capacity gaps in food procurement, transportation, warehousing, and quality control,
 - developing a platform called "School Connect" to streamline field-level monitoring, data entry, and monthly school reports creation,
 - supervising the Social Behaviour and Communication Change committee (SBCC) Training of Trainers programme for the Ministry's directorates, involving 40 participants,

- conducting the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) exercise, which aims to assess the various components of the education system, identify areas of strength and weakness, and develop evidence-based strategies to enhance educational outcomes.

Social Protection

- WFP and the Ministry of Trade (MoT) continued to collaborate to complete the digitalization process of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Duhok and Muthana Governorates. The registration activities reached 51 percent in Duhok and 62 percent in Muthana within six weeks. To complement the registration rollout implementation, WFP finalized a comprehensive change management and knowledge transfer plan that will be executed in PDS branches for both governorates.
- In Najaf Governorate, the Tamwini application was officially launched enabling 35,500 households to download the app to request changes in their status such as adding a child, splitting the family after marriage, or changing their food agent.
- Discussions are underway to finalise the specifications and design documents for the Single Registry System, a system that enables social protection programme and Government registries to coordinate and collaborate by integrating services and information flow between relevant entities. Additionally, WFP held a round table policy discussion with the Ministry of Planning, MoLSA, and the partner agencies, UNICEF, ILO, and the EU. The discussion proposed a model of graduation pathways for Social Safety Net beneficiaries aimed at improving the capacity of MoLSA to execute effective social assistance programmes and enhancing programme linkages and access to resources for promoting entrepreneurship and employability.

Monitoring

WFP conducted 109 monitoring visits in June to cash-out distribution points, economic empowerment, rural livelihood assessments, and Jousour sites, PDS card registration, e-voucher points, and shops. They also conducted 105 monitoring interviews with individuals who received assistance.

Challenges

The ongoing transition from humanitarian to development assistance in Iraq requires consistent, sufficient, multi-year and flexible funding of WFP's strategic work in-country.

Donors

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