



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq

Country Brief
September 2023

In Numbers



13,075 people assisted in September 2023

USD 349,179 cash-based transfers made

USD 62.3 million six months (October 2023 - March 2024) 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 1.2 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: **44 million**
(UNFPA 2023)

2021 Human Development Index: 121
out of 191 (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 September 2023, WFP provided cash assistance to over 2,800 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Jada'a 1 camp to meet their food security needs. During September, WFP assisted over 600 IDPs, who recently arrived in Jada'a 1 camp with cash and assorted food commodities supplementing the hot meals provided by the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD).
- WFP distributed multi-purpose cash assistance to more than 5,000 returnees lacking civil documentation in Baghdad, Kirkuk, and Ninawa governorates. Additionally, in collaboration with UN-Women, 1,715 breastfeeding women and girls in Muthana Governorate received cash assistance to meet their basic food and nutrition needs.

Economic Empowerment, Livelihoods Support and Climate Change

- Under the national Jousour Programme, WFP provided English Language training for over 500 participants during September. Additionally, in partnership with the Polytechnic Universities in Erbil and Duhok Governorates, and with Mercy Hands for Humanitarian Aid, an NGO partner in Anbar Governorate, WFP celebrated the successful graduation of 140 participants. A job fair was organized for the graduates to acquaint them with the current job market opportunities.
- As part of the climate change activities, WFP supported the newly established Climate Change Department at the Ministry of Environment (MoEn) with technical equipment such as laptops and printers to enhance the capacity of the MoEn and its staff to respond to climate change and climate risks through adaptation and mitigation measures. In September, WFP supported a training held at the Ministry of Planning (MoP) on early warning systems and emergency response plans for climate risks. The training was attended by representatives from various Governmental entities and international organizations. Additionally, a 2-day workshop will be conducted by the Inter-ministerial Working Group led by the MoEn in October to activate and strengthen the cooperation and coordination between the ministerial sectors working on climatic data and evidence products.

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Photo Capture: WFP Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa and Eastern Europe, Corinne Fleischer visited WFP's mangrove plantation in Basra, Iraq

WFP Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – December 2024)

Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
701 m	297 m	42%
2023 Requirements (In USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2023 – February 2024)
116 m	62.3 m	

Strategic Outcome 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 Outcome 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.
- Implement climate resilience projects for targeted individuals and communities for and on behalf of the Government and other actors.

Strategic Outcome 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

WFP, UNICEF, and International Trade Centre (ITC) are collaboratively developing the "Grow to Feed, Feed to Grow" initiative with the goal of enhancing sustainable food (SF) programmes by involving school-based entities and youth centres in climate-smart agricultural practices, which includes promoting behaviour change. Additionally, WFP continues to support the Ministry of Education (MoE) by conducting capacity-building exercises. These exercises involve logistical assessments, resulting in a comprehensive report that will be reviewed and shared with the MoE. Furthermore, a project management and interpersonal skills training session was organized for the Higher SF Committee, with the participation of 26 individuals from four Education Directorates in Baghdad.

Social Protection

WFP continues to provide technical and logistical support to the Ministry of Trade (MoT) with the registration

activities for the Public Distribution System (PDS). The registration rates in Dohuk, Kirkuk, Muthanna, and Baghdad Governorates have reached 96, 93, 92, and 74 percent, respectively. Additionally, WFP has launched public awareness campaigns to educate beneficiaries about the benefits of the new PDS applications and how to access and utilize the services effectively. These campaigns aim to build trust and promote participation.

WFP Regional Director Visit to Iraq

During September, WFP Regional Director for the Middle East, North Africa, and Eastern Europe, Ms. Corinne Fleischer had a four-day mission to Iraq to gain insights into the scope of WFP activities in the country. During her mission, Ms. Fleischer met with senior Iraqi Officials as well as officials from sister UN agencies and donors to strengthen collaboration in addressing food security and climate-related issues. Ms. Fleischer also visited the WFP's ongoing projects, one of which is the WFP's mangrove plantation in Basra, an initiative to preserve the mangrove ecosystem and boost biodiversity, enhance climate resilience, and increase income generation for coastal communities.

Monitoring

In September 2023, WFP conducted 83 monitoring visits to cash distribution points, economic empowerment sites, rural livelihood initiatives, Jousour activities, e-voucher points, and shops. Additionally, 40 monitoring interviews were conducted with beneficiaries.

Challenges

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

From Hardship to Success: Roksan's Journey of Hope and Inspiration



Roksan during the Sewing Workshop

Roksan, a 23-years old Syrian woman, arrived in Iraq with limited education. She found herself in hardship to build a new life. Her future has changed when she participated in a vocational sewing workshop,

supported by WFP. Through this workshop, she honed her abilities as a tailor, acquiring technical and tailoring skills, and mastering complex techniques and designs. After completing the workshop, she gained practical experience through a one-month on-the-job training. She is now on the cusp of formally launching her career as a tailor, providing hope and sustainable income for her family. Her journey is a testament of how determination can pave the way for a brighter future with the adequate support.

Donors

WFP thanks all partners for their direct and multilateral contributions including Canada, Denmark, European Union, Germany, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Netherlands, United Kingdom, UN Agencies, United States, the World Bank, PepsiCo Foundation, and individual donors through #ShareTheMeal.