



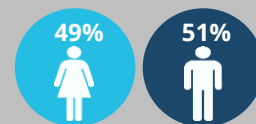
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief June 2021

In Numbers

257,588 people assisted
in June 2021



US\$3.78 million distributed through
cash-based transfers

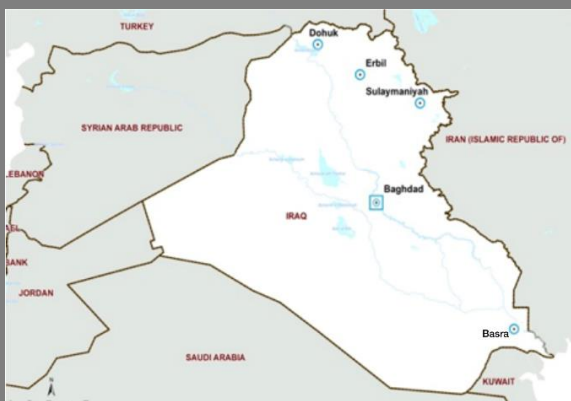
US\$33.7 million six months net funding
requirements (July – December 2021)

Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict continues to aggravate the poverty rate and threaten livelihoods. Alongside the return of families from camps, that continue since 2018, the situation and needs of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees remain precarious. 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. 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 SDGs.

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. Mainstreaming gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive programming is also key.

The first case of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 was recorded in Iraq in February 2020. Given the ongoing cases reported by the Ministry of Health, WFP and its partners continue to take additional measures to safeguard the health and wellbeing of people assisted. Supporting vulnerable families is even more critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has negatively impacted upon people's food security.



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

Poverty rate: **31.7%** (Ministry of Planning, World Bank, UNICEF, 2020)

2020 Human Development Index:
123 of 189 (lowest)

1.2 million IDPs (IOM)
245,952 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

Operational Updates

- In June, WFP provided cash and food assistance to 187,428 IDPs and 68,554 refugees, and 1,606 returnees and people from vulnerable communities through resilience building initiatives.
- The number of new COVID-19 cases is on the rise in Iraq, with the government confirming the third wave of the pandemic. The national vaccination programme continues although at a very slow pace. WFP continues to take precautionary measures in all activities. Meanwhile, the security situation remains volatile, with attacks frequently taking place across the country.
- Following the large fire in Sharya IDP camp in Duhok, where 370 tents burned down due to an electrical fault, WFP and partners continued to provide food, shelter and medical support to all families affected. WFP supports nearly 13,000 people monthly with cash assistance in Sharya camp.
- Together with UNHCR, WFP reactivated Case Review Committees (CRC) in all camps hosting Syrian refugees, with the support of partners and camp management. This review system helps respond to families' changing socio-economic situations and update their status for exclusion or inclusion in WFP's assistance programmes.
- WFP identified priority hotspots for the provision of food assistance to vulnerable IDPs out of camp, including those affected by camp closures. The new intervention aims to provide general food assistance to food insecure IDPs, as well as support for borderline food insecure IDPs to transition to livelihoods activities. In parallel, WFP is advocating for the integration of displaced families into the Public Distribution System for food rations (PDS), in their current respective locations.
- Under WFP's gender equality and women's empowerment work, 35 displaced women in Anbar camps participated in gender-based violence and digital literacy training. The sessions aim to raise awareness of key issues, sensitise women and men on sexual exploitation concerns, zero tolerance in camps, and safely reporting abuse and exploitation. Women and girls are also trained in digital literacy beyond the monthly redemption of WFP assistance.

Photo Caption: WFP and the Ministry of Trade launched the 'Tamwini' ('My Food Ration') smartphone app in Najaf in June. The app enables families to update their Public Distribution System for food rations (PDS) data on their phones. At the launch, PDS General Manager Ibtihal Al-Rubaye explained how families can download the app with a dedicated QR code collected one time from the PDS office.

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feeding programme over the next four years, towards supporting the learning and futures of all children in need, and steadily hand over the programme to the government.

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions 2020-2024 (in USD)
522 m	180 m
Total Requirements for 2021	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July – December 2021)
135 m	33.7 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.

- WFP and the Ministry of Trade launched the ‘Tamwini’ (‘My Food Ration’) smartphone application in Najaf, rolling out for 1.6 million people across the governorate. The app enables families to easily update their information, such as new birth or marriage. A robust Public Distribution System for food rations (PDS) that is constantly updated – in real time – will allow for prioritisation of the most vulnerable families. Under WFP’s social protection programme, the PDS digitalisation is providing the foundation for other Ministries to align and create one single, social register of families most in need of support.

- In Baghdad, WFP hosted a two-day high-level School Feeding consultative workshop, with participants from the Ministries of Education, Health, Planning, and Trade. The partners agreed to broaden access to school feeding for 3.6 million school children across the country. The plan is to expand the national school

- WFP and UNICEF drafted a ‘lessons learned’ paper from the Girls Education pilot project in Basra, which provides cash stipends to financially struggling families, to enable their adolescent girls to continue their education. A workshop is planned to discuss next steps, and maximising impact.

- WFP’s Social Protection team met with the government’s Economic Reform Management Unit and discussed cooperation on WFP’s resilience-building, school feeding and PDS digitalisation work. Coordination meetings were also held with implementing partners UNICEF and ILO.

- Online, WFP gave a briefing on Resilience and Livelihoods to donor partners, encompassing Rural Livelihoods (Food Assistance for Assets, FFA), Urban Livelihoods and EMPACT (‘Empowerment in Action!’) programmes. FFA activities continue in Anbar, Salah al-Din, Ninewa and Thi-Qar, including capacity building. Urban Livelihoods projects in Ninewa, Basra, Thi-Qar and Misan are ongoing, prioritising households whose livelihoods have been negatively affected by COVID-19. The total needs for WFP’s resilience-building activities to support over 130,000 vulnerable people are USD 9.7 million for the remainder of 2021, while the 2022 needs are USD 43.2 million.

- WFP and partner Mercy Hands began collecting data for a new conflict analysis in Basra, on how unemployment and lack of work opportunities may be affecting or creating social unrest, especially among youth. The research also focuses on local youth skills, and how these match demands from employers, to assess what additional support may be required for unemployed young people.

Monitoring and Assessments

- The preliminary findings of an EMPACT digital skills training survey among 2019-2020 graduates revealed that despite the economic challenges due to COVID-19, around 25 percent of men and 15 percent of women managed to secure work.

- The World Bank and WFP extended their collaboration on the data collection of key socioeconomic indicators.

- Given the ongoing issues of water shortages in the country, WFP and partners continue to closely monitor the situation, and the impact on food security.

- WFP’s Emergency Preparedness Officer undertook missions across the country for the Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) in Iraq, and is drafting reports. The LCA forms part of the [Field-Based Preparedness Project](#).

Funding and Pipeline update

WFP requires USD 33.7 million to ensure operations continue without interruption through December 2021.

Donors

WFP would like to thank all partners for their contributions including Belgium, Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, the Government of Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Switzerland, United Nations Agencies, United States, the World Bank, Private Donors and Individual Donors through ShareTheMeal.