



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Iraq Country Brief February 2019

## In Numbers

**102,216 people assisted**  
in February 2019



**729.9 mt** of food assistance distributed

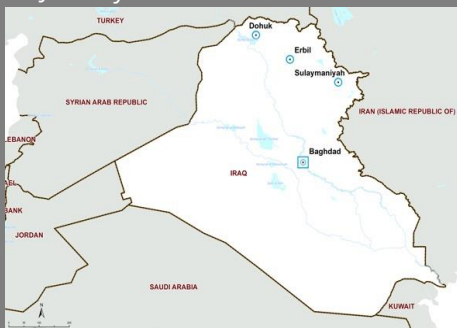
**USD 267,145** cash-based transfers made

**USD 55 million** six months (March-August 2019)  
net funding requirements

## Operational Context

Intermittent conflict continues to aggravate the poverty rate and threaten livelihoods in Iraq. As the situation and needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees remain precarious following the return process that began in 2018, WFP Iraq's assistance focuses on saving lives and protecting livelihoods – supporting the Government of Iraq's social safety nets towards zero hunger. Through emergency assistance to IDPs and refugees, and recovery and reconstruction activities for returnees, WFP is helping the Iraqi government reduce vulnerability and build people's resilience and food security - especially for IDPs, refugees, women, girls and boys.

Working towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – in particular SDG 2 “Zero Hunger” & SDG 17 “Partnerships for the Goals” – WFP is collaborating with partners to support Iraq in achieving food security and improved nutrition, promoting an inclusive society and strengthening cooperation. WFP's assistance is aligned with the Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan, the UN Recovery and Resilience Programme framework, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for the Syria crisis, the General Framework of the National Plan for Reconstruction and Development, and Iraq's National Poverty Reduction Strategy. In line with the corporate Integrated Road Map process, WFP Iraq transitioned to a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) from 01 January 2018 until 31 December 2019.



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

2018 Human Development Index:  
**120 out of 188**

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

**2.5 million** food insecure people (OCHA  
Humanitarian Response Plan 2019)

## Operational Updates

- In February, WFP delivered food assistance to over 102,200 people in 6 governorates, reaching 37 percent of the monthly target of approximately 265,000 people.
- Cash-based transfers (CBT) distributions were delayed in February as banking and financial regulations and sanctions made it difficult to transfer funds to the mobile money transfer (MMT) provider.
- Due to limited resources, the provision of General Food Assistance (GFA) for IDPs is moving from a monthly to 6-week cycle in March 2019. In addition, as of March, the CBT amount for IDPs is being reduced from IQD 20,000 to IQD 17,000 per person per month, to reflect the current cost of the food basket. The Country Office is disseminating key messages about the change. In Sulaymaniyah for example, key messages were translated into Kurdish; the English and Kurdish versions were shared with the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCC), Clusters, working groups and camp managers by email. Field visits to IDP camps were undertaken together with the cooperating partner (CP) World Vision - to share updates and messaging.
- On 13 February 2019, the Ministry of Trade (MoT) and WFP launched the continuation of the pilot phase testing new technology for the modernisation of the Public Distribution System, in Duhok.
- WFP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) on resilience projects, with the goal of better cooperation and synergies.

## Monitoring

- In February 2019, WFP conducted 74 site visits, including 29 in-kind distribution sites, 22 e-voucher distributions, 12 shops, seven cash-out points

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**Photo Caption:** Farmer able to plant and grow again, following the Garma irrigation project.  
*WFP / Cristina Graziani*

## Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (01 January 2018 - 31 December 2019)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>270.3 million</b>	<b>212.8 million</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (March – August 2019)
<b>91.3 million</b>	<b>55 million</b>

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Food insecure households of IDPs in affected areas have access to life-saving and nutritious food throughout 2018.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

**Activities:**

- Provision of general food assistance in the form of regular cash-based transfers or in-kind monthly food entitlements and ready-to-eat rations in the initial phase of displacement.
- Provision of assistance in schools newly reclaimed and rehabilitated.

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Food insecure Syrian refugees have access to life-saving and nutritious food throughout the year.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

**Activities:**

- Provision of general food assistance to vulnerable refugees.
- Provision of support for resilience and livelihoods activities for Syrian refugees.

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Vulnerable returnees and conflict-affected communities rebuild their assets, recover livelihoods and improve their food security across the country by the end of 2018.

**Focus area:** Resilience Building

**Activities:**

- Resilience building through livelihoods activities and social protection to support the food insecure.

### Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Vulnerable groups, including children, adolescents, and pregnant and lactating women and girls have improved nutritional awareness through IYCF, and the government capacity is strengthened.

**Focus area:** Nutrition capacity strengthening for Government partners

**Activities:**

- Iraqi institutions receive capacity strengthening training in order to improve nutrition of children, adolescents and pregnant and lactating women and girls across the country.

### Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology

**Strategic Outcome 5:** Effective coordination for humanitarian support in Iraq

**Focus area:** Crisis response

**Activities:**

- Provision of cluster services and common platforms for the humanitarian community.

for IDPs, three conditional cash transfers for assets creation through work completed, and one cash-out point for refugees. Additionally, 11 beneficiary monitoring interviews were carried out in February.

- WFP concluded its six-month targeting and verification exercise for Syrian refugee households in camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). As a result of the exercise, the number of targeted beneficiaries will now be about half the previous target, around 32,899 individuals (6,936 households). According to the findings, a significant proportion of refugee households – 31 percent in Erbil and 30 percent in Duhok – do not have any source of income, and 15 percent self-identified food as their highest priority, following housing.
- The Iraq and Kurdistan Region governments – Central Statistics Office (CSO) and Kurdistan Regional Statistical Office (KRSO) - agreed to provisionally introduce Food Security modules to their regular household income and expenditure surveys.

## Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (VAM)

- WFP Iraq has developed an initial satellite imagery analysis that shows crop types. Field verification is planned in late March for one week, involving four government officials from the Central Statistics Office, Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office and Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) for each of the three districts.
- Work is ongoing for the next edition of the Socio-Economic Atlas 2019.

## Funding and Pipeline update

- The current funding situation and forecast for 2019 will only be sufficient for the first trimester of 2019 - with a pipeline break expected in April for CBT and in-kind assistance to IDPs, and a pipeline break in May for CBT assistance to Syrian refugees. In order to ensure continued assistance through to August 2019, USD 55 million is required.

## Donors

(in alphabetical order)

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund (IHPPF), Japan, Kuwait, Multilateral Funds, Norway, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, UN Funds excl. CERF.