



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief March 2019

In Numbers

483,801 people assisted
in March 2019



3,127 mt of food assistance distributed

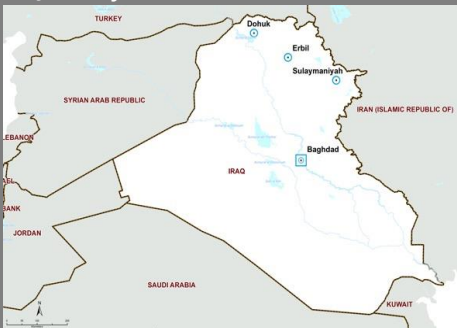
USD 4.18 million cash-based transfers made

USD 49.4 million six months (April–September 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 people (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 March, WFP delivered food assistance to over 483,800 people in 10 governorates, reaching over 100 percent of the monthly target of approximately 481,360 people.
- Mobile money transfers (MMT) for IDPs resumed in March, after being on hold since January as international banking and financial regulations and sanctions had made it difficult to transfer funds to the MMT provider. Hence the number of people reached in March is higher than usual.
- In an effort to better coordinate with the government and increase backstopping of government efforts, WFP organised a workshop with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and the Ministry of Trade (MoT), which oversees Iraq's Public Distribution System of food rations (PDS). A successful discussion resulted in the decision to create a working group with regular meetings to share information on plans and distributions. For example, in March WFP did not distribute its full monthly Family Food Ration (FFR) in certain camps in Anbar and Salah al-Din governorates, because of MoMD's plans to distribute there, and instead complemented this ration with some missing items from the food basket.
- As part of WFP's Food Assistance for Assets projects, the first phase of the canal rehabilitation in Ramadi, Anbar governorate has concluded. A total of 54.5 km of canals has been cleaned and 11 pumping stations rehabilitated, bringing water to 10,000 hectares of agricultural land. The cooperating partner (CP) Al-Khiamiat is coordinating with the local authorities to begin the rehabilitation of five further pumping stations.
- After the signing of the Empact (formerly Tech for Food) agreement with the new CP, coordination meetings and outreach about the programme have begun, and work is underway to confirm the locations of the learning centres.

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Photo Caption: A woman beneficiary in Fallujah camp easily claims her monthly food entitlement using the SCOPE e-voucher system.
WFP / Sharon Rapose

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
270.3 m	213.2 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April – September 2019)
91.3 m	49.4 m

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.

Monitoring, Assessments

- In March 2019, WFP conducted 182 site visits, including 42 in-kind distribution sites, 53 e-voucher distributions, 24 shops, 61 cash-out points for internally displaced people (IDPs), one Impact (formerly Tech for Food) and one cash-out point for refugees. Additionally, 48 beneficiary monitoring interviews were carried out in March.
- Preparations have begun for the targeting exercise for IDPs. The same staff involved in regular verification will be overseeing the targeting exercise. MoMD will also be joining the targeting exercise.
- WFP conducted an assessment to explore the feasibility of switching from in-kind food assistance or e-vouchers to cash through MMT, for IDPs and refugees living in camps, from the point of view of programme management, logistics, information technology and connectivity. The team visited two in-kind camps in Diyala.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

- A special delegation from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) visited Iraq to observe WFP's programming in the country and how WFP's work could contribute towards improving prospects for peace. A report is being drafted that will showcase the findings and a short film is being produced – as part of SIPRI's evaluation of four conflict-affected countries and how food assistance can help promote peace.

Funding and Pipeline update

- Due to insufficient resources, a pipeline break for IDPs and Syrian refugees is expected in June for CBT, and in September for in-kind food assistance to IDPs. In order to ensure continued assistance through September 2019, USD 49.4 million is required.

Donors

(in alphabetical order)

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