



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Iraq Country Brief October 2022



In Numbers



160,930 people assisted in October 2022

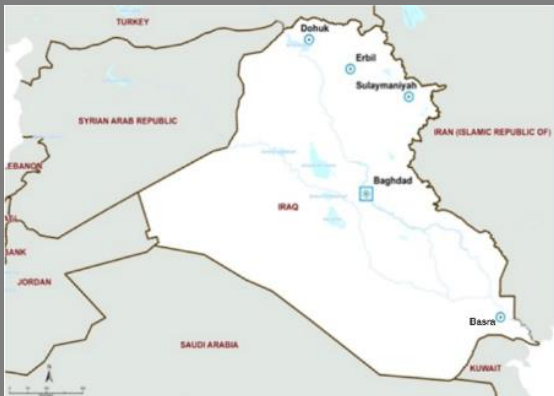
US\$1,718,089 cash-based transfers made

US\$46.7 m six months (November 2022 -April 2023) net funding requirements

Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict and impact of climate change continue to affect the lives of people. There are currently 1.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 4.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Insecurity, lack of livelihoods, and destroyed or damaged housing hamper people's ability to return home. 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. Iraq's progress on the SDGs has been hindered by the challenges of rebuilding infrastructure in areas affected by conflict with ISIL, economic shocks caused by COVID-19, weak institutions and governance, climate change, delayed implementation of reforms and inadequate opportunities for youth.

WFP Iraq is currently shifting its role from emergency response to resilience building and long-term sustainable development. This paradigm shift is critical as Iraq is currently experiencing adverse effects of climate change (5th 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) which results in increased salinity that, in turn, heavily affects agriculture.



Population: **41.2 million**
(UNFPA 2021)

2020 Human Development Index: **123**
out of 189 (lowest)

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

1.2 million IDPs (IOM)
260,686 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

Operational Updates

- In October, as part of targeting the most vulnerable people for cash assistance, WFP provided cash distribution to the reduced number of beneficiaries reaching 127,941 IDPs and 32,989 refugees in camps.
- The complaint and feedback mechanism (CFM) in the camps was available and ready to collect and respond to beneficiary complaints with regards to the targeting process.
- WFP provided immediate ration response (IRR) to 158 Iraqi households (659 individuals) who arrived at Jeddah 1 camp following the closure of Al-Hol camp.
- Due to funding shortfall, the school feeding (SF) distribution will be halted for the 2022-2023 school year as informed by Ministry of Education (MoE). The programme though will be focusing on capacity building of the Ministry of Education personnel to manage the SF programme. An updated plan, which was developed in full consultation with MoE last year, was finalized and discussions are currently underway with MoE to agree on the timeline to start the implementation.
- With the support of WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo, an international consultant has been identified to carry out a Cost Benefit Analysis for the SF case in Iraq. The exercise is part of necessary evidence generation of the benefits of the school feeding programme in Iraq. The planned study is endorsed by MoE.
- The SF Team is working with a new Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) expert at WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo to conduct a 2nd SBCC workshop planned to take place by the end of 2022. The workshop aims to continue a work initiated last year under the area of health, hygiene, and nutrition.
- Based on multi-stakeholder discussions that comprise several government entities and UN agencies, the Social Protection Programme has finalized a draft single registry strategy. The draft strategy is currently under review by the government. A technical committee of the two parties has been established to validate and endorse the strategy following the review process.

Contact info: Aseel Al-Khattab
Representative: Ally Raza Qureshi
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/iraq

Photo Caption: Beneficiaries receiving their cash assistance in Sharya camp in Duhok Governorate.

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated contributions
601 m	268 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (November 2022 - April 2023)
141 m	46.7 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.

Monitoring

- In October, WFP conducted 58 monitoring visits, including 47 cash-out points for internally displaced people (IDPs) and Syrian refugees, 1 Livelihood and resilience, 6 e-voucher points, and 4 shops. In addition, 26 monitoring interviews were carried out with people assisted.
- EMPACT data collection for the end of the cycle, was completed for 2021 graduates.
- Food Security Outcome Monitoring was launched in the IDP and Syrian refugee camps in the Kurdistan Region and Ninawa (Jedaa 1 and 5) to explore the impact of WFP cash assistance on food security of beneficiary households.

Challenges

- Funding shortfalls remain the largest challenge to WFP Iraq's activities in 2022, as the programme is only funded up to 17 percent of the total required.

Donors

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

- As part of the efforts to reform the public distribution system (PDS), WFP in cooperation with Ministry of Trade (MOT) started the digital PDS registration in Najaf governorate. The registration process will support the evidence-based targeting criteria that was recommended to the Government. In October, around 30,000 e-PDS cards were printed, out of 340,000 cards, the total target in Najaf Governorate. A Total of 19,729 e-cards were distributed and 1,891 e-cards were activated.