



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Iraq
Country Brief
July 2023



In Numbers



39,482 people assisted in July 2023

US\$ 481,506 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 50.2 million six months (August 2023-January 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 1.17 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, climate change, delayed implementation of reforms and inadequate opportunities for youth.

WFP Iraq continued shifting its role from emergency response to resilience building and contributing to 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: **45.5 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 (UNHCR)

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- In July, WFP provided cash assistance to over 2,200 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Jada'a 1 camp. A total of 154 mt of dates donated by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre of Saudi Arabia, as well as 56mt of Immediate Response Rations (IRR), were distributed to over 37,000 Syrian refugees in 10 camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).
- Due to funding constraints, the distribution cycle for Syrian refugees was extended from a four-week to a six-week cycle, with a transfer value reduced to IQD 15,500 (US\$ 12) per person, to ensure uninterrupted assistance.
- Starting July 2023, a Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) was activated through the WFP toll-free number to effectively address beneficiary concerns, receive feedback and enquiries regarding the status of assistance.

Economic Empowerment, Livelihoods Support and Climate Change

- The WFP Resilience team is currently designing a new Economic Empowerment project, which aims to support unemployed youth through intensive training courses. WFP is actively taking part in governmental initiatives such as the Riyada initiative by the Prime Minister Council to provide vital support to unemployed youth in Iraq. This includes offering technical, vocational, and skills training, as well as access to funding for small projects and private business startups.
- To further enhance employment opportunities for youth, WFP is collaborating with the private sector to innovate and implement strategies that cater to the local market. Additionally, potential future partnerships and joint projects with UNESCO are being explored to secure additional support and resources for future interventions.
- The Jousour programme continues its activities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) and Anbar Governorate. The programme is engaged in various activities to ensure quality outcome for youth including:
 - WFP and UNICEF to deliver Life Skills and Citizenship Education to partners and WFP trainers.

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Photo Capture: WFP staff distributing Immediate Response Rations (IRR) and dates from the Saudi Aid at a refugee camp in Erbil. ©WFP

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

Total Requirements (In US\$)	Total Received (In US\$)	Percentage Funded
601 m	323 m	20%
2023 Requirements (In US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (August 2023 – Jan 2024)	
63.1 m	50.2 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.
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- A Youth concept note was finalized on empowering youth via job placements, and to develop a comprehensive learning management system.
 - Job Studio, a matching platform, inducted Jousour participants in Sulaymaniyah, Erbil, Duhok, and Anbar, connecting them with 200+ local companies.
 - A six-day financial inclusion training of trainers

(ToT) was held for a selected WFP staff to assist marginalized communities to access financial services.

- As part of WFP’s climate change activities, WFP is communicating with the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture with a focus on enhancing the capacity of Iraqi governmental stakeholders in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Further, WFP held discussions with representatives from the Iraqi Government to explore alternative climate financing options through the carbon credit market, aiming to foster the shift towards a low-carbon economy while supporting sustainable development.

School Feeding

- WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to develop the National School Feeding Programme policy. An initial version of the policy has been circulated by MoE to relevant stakeholders for feedback.
- WFP and MoE are developing a comprehensive Social Behaviour and Communication Change (SBCC) training for participants from MoE, and Ministry of Health, and WFP. The training is scheduled in August. Discussions with MoE are ongoing to implement Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) assessment.
- WFP and MoE will provide a one-month soft skills training starting in August related to programme and data management to MoE staff.

Social Protection

- Under the Social Protection Intervention, WFP continued to provide technical and field support to the Ministry of Trade. Registrations are ongoing and have reached 92 percent (257,077 households (HH)) in Dohuk and 82 percent (165,503 HH) in Muthanna. The Ministry of Trade has taken ownership of the project and initiated the registration in Baghdad and Kirkuk Governorates with the aim of expanding and rolling out the system at the national level.
- Additionally, WFP initiated capacity-building activities in Dohuk. A series of TOT were conducted in July, engaging 15 Government staff and covering various topics related to the digitalization of the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Monitoring

WFP conducted 130 monitoring visits in July, including visits to cash-out distribution points, economic empowerment sites, rural livelihood initiatives, Jousour activities, e-voucher points, and shop visits. 105 monitoring interviews were also conducted with individuals who received assistance.

Challenges

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

Donors

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