



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

Quarterly Bulletin

UN WFP Iraq | Q1 2022

This edition provides updates from the first quarter of 2022 on the UN World Food Programme's ongoing partnerships with the Government of Iraq; Climate Action and Rural development interventions; youth and women empowerment initiatives, capacity building on monitoring and evaluation; innovations on enhancing the efficiency of the Public Distribution System for food rations (PDS); Baghdad International Water Conference; International Women's Day and more...

Climate Action

PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

WFP collaborated with PepsiCo Foundation to deliver training for 118 farmers in Ninewa on good agricultural practices for planting and cultivating potatoes. The overall model sees PepsiCo purchase the harvested potatoes to produce snacks in Iraq, in a virtuous circle. This is part of WFP's approach to leverage its partnerships, to supplement its resilience building and rural development activities.

This training was provided by 16 Ninewa agronomists who received capacity building by WFP earlier in a Training of Trainers (ToT) for 30 agronomists including from Halabja, thus complementing the implementation cycle. Agronomists from the Directorates of Education in Ninewa and Halabja will receive further ToT to serve as guidance to farmers on good agricultural practices and improve the quality and yield of their crops.

INTERNATIONAL WATER CONFERENCE IN BAGHDAD

WFP collaborated with the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources to organize the second Annual Baghdad International Water Conference, to help highlight and provide solutions to the issues of climate change and water scarcity facing Iraq's people and agriculture.

WFP presented its latest data and findings on the issue to support the government of Iraq with its Green Paper to address these serious challenges.

[Watch the wrap video on Instagram](#)

Photo: WFP Iraq's Head of Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping, Monitoring & Evaluation, Fawad Raza, speaks at the 2nd annual Baghdad International Water Conference, highlighting important research by WFP to help tackle climate change. WFP was a key partner of the Conference with the Ministry of Water Resources and UN agencies. WFP/Saif al-Tatooz

MADE IN IRAQ

As part of resilience-building rural development work, WFP and partner Samaritan's Purse held a local 'pop-up Food Festival – Made in Iraq', in Hamdaniya, Ninewa. The festival featured home-cooked, or small-batch produced, food by women's cooperatives, such as tahini, cheese, yoghurt, pastries and more. The women-led cooperatives were given small grants and key assets such as ovens, and trained over consecutive years through WFP and partners' resilience projects. The cooperatives enable the women to support their households, especially the women heads of households who have been under stress due to the conflict in the area. The groups use local raw materials and sell in local markets, thus contributing to the local economy and diversifying their livelihoods.

The event was attended by the Mayor of Hamdaniya Professor Issam Behnam Daaboul, officials, traders and members of the community, and the Mosul Women hub. Discussions are ongoing to expand the programme to reach more women, also bringing in local government as a key partner. Further support to the women-led cooperatives is needed to enable the women to grow their cooperatives into long-term micro-businesses.



Photo: At the first Hamdaniya pop-up Food Festival, women sold home produced food such as delicious pastries and snacks using the value-addition and business skills they learned during WFP & partners' training. WFP/Sharon Rapose

Supporting Government with Technical Expertise

SOCIAL PROTECTION: TOWARDS A SINGLE REGISTRY

As part of the joint Social Protection Programme with the government and UN partners, WFP held three consultation workshops for more than 80 Government of Iraq and Kurdistan Regional Government staff members and key Ministerial participants. The fruitful discussions produced a roadmap for establishing a Single Registry based on multi-stakeholder discussions. The workshops also initiated dialogue on the improvement of Iraq's social protection schemes with special focus on the Public Distribution System for food rations (PDS). In addition to multiple Ministry representatives, the workshops were attended by UNICEF, ILO, World Bank, GIZ and UNHCR.



GOVERNMENT AND WFP SIGN NEW AGREEMENTS

In January, the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO) and WFP signed a new agreement (Letter of Understanding-LoU), to work together on research for informed decision-making, to support families in need.

Building on WFP's successful skills workshops with KRSO in the past, the agreement includes comprehensive training on food security and data analysis, including Kurdistan Region government staff from other departments. WFP experts will also deliver training on key digital solutions.

In March, together with the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the International Labour Organization (ILO), WFP launched a new programme to reform the social protection system and the effectiveness of its response to ongoing socio-economic shocks. This important work is funded by the European Union (EU) which has prioritised support for Iraq to build a sustainable and more inclusive social protection system for families in need.

The KRG Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs launched this new partnership with the three UN Agencies in line with their vision to develop an effective social protection response and to accelerate reform.

Photo: President of KRSO in Ministry of Planning of Kurdistan Region Government Serwan Mohamed (right) and WFP Representative Ally Raza Qureshi confirm new agreement. WFP/Sharon Rapose

SCHOOL FEEDING RELAUNCH

Under the School Feeding Programme with the Government of Iraq, WFP held an inauguration ceremony for the launch of its school feeding activities in Baghdad's Sadr city for the academic year 2021/2022. During January's midterm exams, school meals also continued to be distributed. WFP concluded agreements with implementing partners to provide 449,000 students in 13 governorates across Iraq with nutritious school meals.

Following WFP's proactive work with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to hand over the programme, in January began a partial transition of 40 percent of operations to direct implementation by the government in the 2021/22 academic year. WFP continues to provide technical advisory and procurement support informed by years of experience of delivering school feeding programmes in Iraq and worldwide.

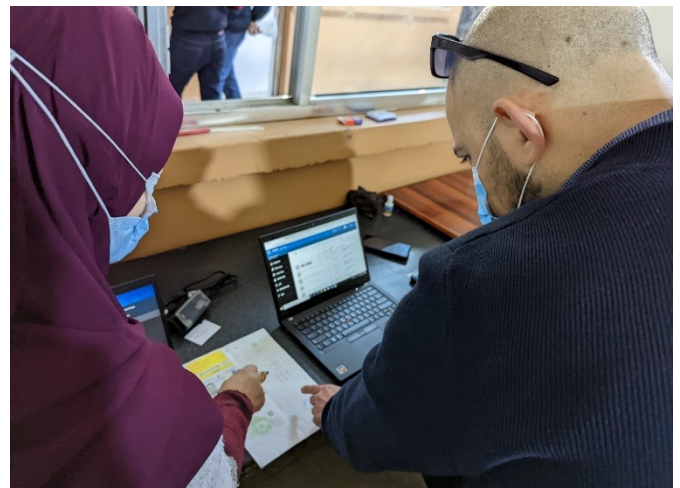


Photos: *Left:* School girls attending the inauguration ceremony of the School Feeding Programme in Baghdad's Sadr City for the academic year 2021/2022. *Right:* WFP Tech staff at the Public Distribution System for food rations (PDS) Branch in Baghdad's Sadr City oversee the implementation of the digitalized features of the PDS reform. WFP/Saif al-Tatooz

DIGITALIZING THE FOOD RATION SYSTEM

As part of the joint Social Protection Programme with the Government and UN partners, WFP is continuing the printing of cards for the digitalized Public Distribution System for food rations (PDS). These replace the outgoing paper cards that are prone to loss and damage. So far 22,000 out of 35,000 cards have been printed and WFP is working with the Ministry of Trade to complete printing in order to begin dissemination to citizens.

WFP's collaboration with financial service provider Zain Cash is underway. The collaboration incorporates Zain's mobile financial solutions into the "Tamwini" ("My Food Ration") app, allowing Iraqi citizens to make payments from their cell-phones for routine updates, such as registering a new child, or changing their address. This is very useful as it eliminates long waiting lines at PDS branches for these simple procedures and also saves transportation charges and other expenses that citizens usually pay for these requests.



Empowerment in Action

CLIMATE AND YOUTH INNOVATION WITH UNIVERSITY

In its continued efforts to support Iraq's youth, and confront climate change, WFP provided a new solar power system for the Career Development Centre at the University of Sulaymaniyah. The solar energy provided now effectively meets the electricity gap during power cuts or shortages, enabling seamless support to youth in need as they take part in the EMPACT (Empowerment in Action) project.

Participation in this project supports students with relevant training in English, digital skills and entrepreneurship that enables them to find work opportunities, start small businesses and provide an income.

CHAMPIONING URBAN LIVELIHOODS IN SOUTHERN IRAQ AND NINEWA

WFP celebrated the graduation of Urban Livelihoods participants from Maysan governorate in southern Iraq with graduation certificates and tool packages being distributed to the participants. This ceremony was attended by the Governor of Maysan Ali Dawai Lazem, who lauded WFP and its partner's efforts that helped nearly 700 citizens with vocational skill training that helps them secure a livelihood for themselves and their families.

In January a further cycle was rolled out in the governorate with 150 enrolled students being prioritized. The next phase of Urban Livelihoods is now being programmed.

Thanks to all our partners: Canada, Denmark, European Union, Germany, Government of Iraq, Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Multilateral Funds, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN Agencies, United States, the World Bank, PepsiCo Foundation, and Individual Donors through #ShareTheMeal.

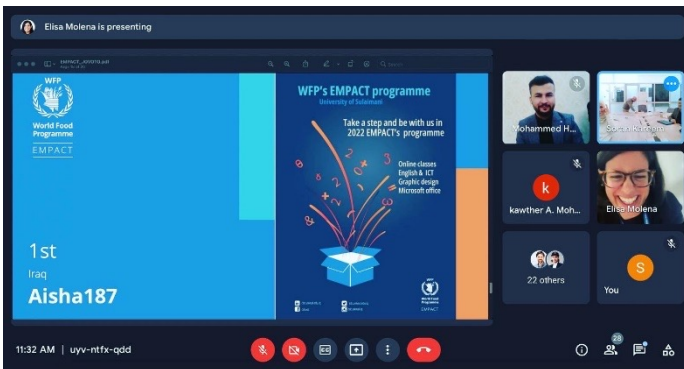


Photo: The first solar energy system is installed at the University of Sulaymaniyah, benefiting the whole Career Development Center, students and staff who use it. WFP/Awder Hussain



CHAMPIONING YOUTH

In collaboration with the University of Sulaymaniyah and German creative design platform JOVOTO, WFP celebrated the three young EMPACT graduates Aisha, Mohammed and Kawther, whose designs revolving around the EMPACT project won the first, second and third prizes respectively, in the first design innovation joint competition.



Gender and Inclusion INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

For International Women's Day on 8 March, Urban Livelihoods participant and trainer Nada was invited by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Baghdad to visit from Basra, to participate in a special event to speak about her journey and experience.

The impact of WFP's Urban Livelihoods programme, implemented across southern Iraq and Ninewa, is apparent through star participants such as Nada. She attended the programme, then taught photography skills that she acquired from her training, quickly became a social entrepreneur, leader of a prolific youth creative group, and role model for her contemporaries in Basra.

[Watch Nada's story on Instagram](#)

E-mail: WFP.Iraq@wfp.org

<http://www.wfp.org/countries/iraq>



VISITS TO PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

The US Deputy Consul General, Chahrazed Sioud and an accompanying USAID and US Consulate delegation visited Kabarto camp for IDPs in Duhok in February and met with the camp management and displaced families living in the camp, who receive monthly food assistance from WFP. They also visited the Primary Health Care Centre that provides daily assistance by medical professionals to camp residents.

Delegations of Canada and Germany visited Sharya IDP camp in Duhok in March, and met with a number of displaced families to discuss their situation, reasons that prohibit their return to their homes, and ongoing needs.

Generating Evidence & Assessing Impact

ANALYSIS SUPPORTING DECISION MAKING

WFP published its latest Market Monitor report in March, which analyzed how the prices of essential food commodities are increasing, impacting the purchasing power of vulnerable Iraqis. Wage rates also remain unchanged over the past two years, and the Ukraine conflict is exacerbating a deteriorating food security situation. The benefits from higher oil prices will be offset by the increased cost of imports. Despite sluggish economic growth, inflation has been on the rise, and with it the risk of stagflation. WFP also presented to donors the impact that the Ukraine crisis has had in a forum chaired by the Humanitarian Coordinator / Resident Coordinator (HC/RC).

In light of the rise in food prices as a result of the Russian- Ukrainian conflict, WFP temporarily increased its cash transfer value to vulnerable IDPs living in Jadaa-5 camp to mitigate the effects and ensure that families are not affected.

Twitter: [@WFP_Iraq](#)

Instagram: [@WFP_Iraq](#)

Facebook: [@WFPinIraq](#)