



World Food Programme

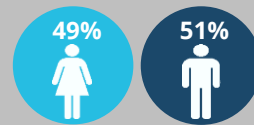
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief August 2021

In Numbers

289,898 people assisted
in August 2021



US\$4.1 million distributed through
cash-based transfers

US\$24.9 million six months net funding
requirements (September 2021– February 2022)**

Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict continues to aggravate the poverty rate and threaten livelihoods. Alongside the return of families from camps, that continue since 2018, the situation and needs of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees remain precarious. 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. The challenges of rebuilding infrastructure, providing basic services, promoting social cohesion, creating jobs, developing skills, opportunities for youth and working towards gender equality whilst maintaining security have impeded the country's efforts to make progress on the SDGs.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2020-2024 in Iraq has an all-encompassing goal of supporting the Government of Iraq to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, shifting WFP's role from implementing to enabling and capacity strengthening. This is critical in transitioning from crisis response to resilience building, and for longer-term peace and development. Mainstreaming gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive programming is also key.

The first case of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 was recorded in Iraq in February 2020. Given the ongoing cases reported by the Ministry of Health, WFP and its partners continue to take additional measures to safeguard the health and wellbeing of people assisted. Supporting vulnerable families is even more critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has negatively impacted upon people's food security.



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

Poverty rate: **31.7%** (Ministry of Planning, World Bank, UNICEF, 2020)

2020 Human Development Index:
123 of 189 (lowest)

1.2 million IDPs (IOM)
248,721 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

Operational Updates

- In August, WFP provided cash and food assistance to 186,088 IDPs and 68,599 refugees, and 26,070 returnees and people from vulnerable communities through resilience building initiatives.
- The number of new daily COVID-19 cases began to decline from the beginning of August, from 9,394 to 6,937 cases by the end of the month. Meanwhile, the security situation remains unstable, with various incidents reported throughout the country. Although WFP operations were not affected, WFP continues to closely monitor the situation.
- In August, the movement of some returnees from their areas of origin back to formal camps continued in Ninewa, with 86 families from Shirqat district relocating to Jeddah 5 camp. WFP and partners provided ready-to eat immediate response rations (IRRs) for the families upon arrival, who are being integrated into WFP's regular cash-based assistance. WFP's support to displaced families in August included USD 3.4 million in cash assistance for refugees and IDPs (including USD 97,200 of e-vouchers for some IDP families). In addition, WFP provided in-kind food via 3 mt of IRRs to 460 people who returned to camps during the month, as well as one IDP in quarantine in Ameriyat al-Fallujah camp.
- WFP's out-of-camp response supporting IDPs who are no longer living in formal camps began in July and is ongoing, following earlier assessments. WFP is scaling up general food assistance for 18,000 people, while also working to commence livelihoods activities dedicated for 22,000 out-of-camp IDPs and host communities in Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates, over 13 months.
- Implementation continues of WFP's Rural Livelihoods / Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities in Anbar, Salah al-Din, Ninewa (Sinjar, Ba'aj and Hamdaniya) and Thi-Qar. This year, WFP has supported tens of thousands of people through much-needed asset creation and rehabilitation, and capacity strengthening activities, contributing towards building the resilience of smallholder farming communities in areas affected by conflict, and where households are adapting to the adverse effects of climate change. WFP began working with two additional NGO partners to support the expansion of the rural livelihoods programmes in Basra and Ninewa.

Photo Caption: WFP and the Ministry of Trade concluded their trial stage and marked the beginning of the next stage of expansion of the digitalised Public Distribution System for food rations (PDS). As Iraq's biggest social safety net, the innovation will transform the lives of nearly 39 million people.

Contact: Sharon Rapose (sharon.rapose@wfp.org)

Representative: Ally-Raza Qureshi

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/iraq

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions 2020-2024 (in USD)
522 m	210 m
Total Requirements for 2021	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2021 – February 2022)
135 m	24.9 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.

- As of 31 August, WFP Iraq's Urban Livelihoods projects had assisted 600 participants and over 2,600 people in the communities (including household members), through practical vocational trainings, toolkit supply, cash transfers, and market linkages in Maysan. The Governor of Maysan launched the initiatives, and WFP continues to work closely with its partners, local authorities and community representatives to carry out the activities.
- WFP's EMPACT – 'Empowerment in Action!' – programme continued in August, with the second cohort of students commencing classes in digital skills and English. EMPACT helps connect vulnerable youth with the job market, by helping them develop key skills including to work online and seize freelancing opportunities. Three events to help connect EMPACT graduates to the job market were held in Erbil, Duhok and Ninewa.

- As part of WFP's school-based programming, the third and last tranche of cash transfers for the joint WFP-UNICEF Girls Education pilot project were distributed to vulnerable households in Basra in August. Advocacy and outreach activities continue, supporting girls to stay in school. WFP and UNICEF will continue to explore avenues for the next phase of the project following its review and lessons learned exercises. WFP also continued to work closely with the Ministry of Education to define a national School Feeding Policy, to best meet the needs of children's learning and futures, including a key meeting with Deputy Minister for Education Hussein Sabri al Lami.

- On 30 August, WFP and the Ministry of Trade concluded their trial stage and marked the beginning of the next stage of expansion of the digitalised Public Distribution System for food rations (PDS). As Iraq's biggest social safety net, the innovation will transform the lives of nearly 39 million people. The workshop was attended by Undersecretary for Economic Affairs Ghassan Hameed Farhan, European Commission Head of Cooperation in Iraq Barbara Egger, WFP Regional Director Corinne Fleischer and WFP Iraq Representative Ally-Raza Qureshi, who agreed it was a milestone towards helping the right people receive the right food at the right time. Further key partners attended online. This next phase of the project of scale up of the initiatives is to be led by the government.

- WFP's Social Protection team continues to work closely with UNICEF and ILO on the joint Social Protection Programme with the Iraqi government, funded by the European Union. The WFP team initiated a Coordination Committee with the Central Statistics Office (CSO) for the Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey (IHSES). WFP coordinated with all stakeholders, and the new committee will be chaired by CSO and Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO). The committee will lead the technical cooperation and process of the one-year data collection and implementation of the national survey. The next meeting and launch of survey implementation are expected in October 2021.

Monitoring and Assessments

- In August, WFP conducted 200 monitoring visits, including 88 cash-out points for IDPs and Syrian refugees, 58 livelihood and resilience sites, 19 EMPACT locations, 24 e-voucher points and 11 shops in camps. In addition, 37 monitoring interviews were carried out with people assisted, and 247 interview calls with families supported by the Girls Education project in Basra.
- WFP continues to closely monitor the situation of water shortages in Iraq together with Food Security Cluster partners. Low rainfall continues to impact upon farmers and their livelihoods.

Funding and Pipeline update

WFP requires USD 24.9 million to ensure operations continue without interruption through February 2022.

Donors

WFP would like to thank all partners for their contributions including Belgium, Canada, European Union, France, Germany, the Government of Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Multilateral Funds, Switzerland, United Nations Agencies, United States, the World Bank, Private Donors and Individual Donors through ShareTheMeal.