



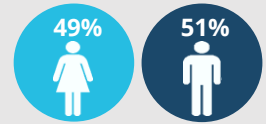
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Iraq Country Brief June 2022



In Numbers



253,037 people assisted

in June 2022

US\$ 3.38 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 48.5 m six months (July-December 2022) 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 June, WFP provided cash and food assistance to 182,664 internally displaced persons (IDPs), 66,563 refugees, and 3,810 people from vulnerable communities through resilience building initiatives.
- WFP is in the final implementation stages of its resilience-building and livelihood activities. In preparation for the 2022/2023 round of projects, a series of consultations with Government of Iraq entities, academia and private sector are being undertaken to inform and enhance project design, data collection and socio-economic mapping.
- WFP also participated in the launch of a series of Climate Action panels held in the Station Foundation for Entrepreneurship - one of Iraq's lead co-working spaces - with panellists from non-governmental organizations, academia and the civil society, tying in with the 'World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought.' The panel focused on Youth and Climate Change, raising awareness on the potential avenues of collaboration to counter the adverse effects of climate change on Iraq.
- Under the National School Feeding Programme, WFP held meetings in Wasit, Anbar, Salah al-Din and Qadisiya governorates to gather data and lessons-learned from the implementation of the National School Feeding Programme alongside the Ministry of Education, Directorates of Education and cooperating partners. Outcomes of the meetings will be incorporated into future implementation of the School Feeding programme for the academic year 2022/2023.
- WFP is conducting a targeting exercise across its entire beneficiary base to ensure that the most vulnerable families who are unable to survive without assistance continue to receive support to meet their needs. Results will be verified and issued once the targeting exercise is concluded.
- WFP Representative, Mr. Ally Raza Qureshi, attended the HiTex 2022, Iraq's largest technology exhibition held in Erbil. Mr. Qureshi participated as a panellist in a session on the "Role of Business Incubators in Enhancing Tech Entrepreneurship", which aligned with WFP's priority to promote food security and livelihoods in Iraq through support to the youth, who

Contact info: Saif al-Tatooz (saif.altatooz@wfp.org)
Representative: Ally Raza Qureshi
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/iraq

Photo Caption: WFP Representative at the signing of an MoU with the Director of KRG-DIT.
WFP/Zahra Salih

WFP Country Strategy

| Total Requirements (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 600.8 m | 253 m |
| 2022 Requirements (in USD) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July – December 2022) |
| 141 m | 48.5 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.

make up to 60 percent of the country's population.

- WFP Representative also attended the Agribusiness Conference, organized by USAID and Top Mountain business incubator in Erbil, to address the challenges facing smallholder farmers and those posed by climate change in Iraq, in addition to agricultural opportunities in the Kurdistan Region and Iraq.
- In the ongoing work to reform Iraq's Public Distribution System (PDS), WFP continues its distribution of ePDS cards at al-Maamel branch in Baghdad with a total of 6,799 cards distributed for citizens as of June and the establishment of a help desk to deal with any issues that might arise with the introduction of the new technology.
- In its efforts to reform Iraq's Social Protection Systems, WFP Iraq signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Information Technology at the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG-DIT). This

MoU will serve as the framework for technical cooperation on the digitalization of the Single Registry.

- WFP's ongoing collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) on Social Protection led to the creation of the Social Protection Sector Wide Coordination Committee (SPCC), which will promote the joint work by different key actors towards achieving the shared objectives of reforming the country's social protection schemes to best serve the most vulnerable groups of Iraq's community. The SPCC will serve as a consultation platform to a large number of stakeholders involved in Social Protection reform and relies on the combined expertise of the three UN agencies.

Monitoring

- In June, WFP conducted 118 monitoring visits, including 79 cash-out points for IDPs and Syrian refugees, 16 livelihood and resilience sites, 15 e-voucher points, eight shops and two School Feeding sites. In addition, 18 monitoring interviews were carried out with people assisted.
- WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) team initiated a targeting exercise building on the findings of the Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) conducted in cooperation with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) for Syrian refugee households. WFP is now collaborating with the Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office (KRSO) to gather sufficient socioeconomic data to inform the delivery of life-saving food and cash assistance.

Challenges

- Funding shortfalls remain the largest challenge to WFP Iraq's activities in 2022 as the programme is only funded up to 35 percent of the total required. WFP is currently conducting targeting exercises to streamline the delivery of assistance ensuring that our assistance reaches those who are most vulnerable.

Exploring New Avenues

- WFP is exploring new avenues of funding and collaboration with Iraq's banking sector, namely the Central Bank of Iraq and the Agricultural Cooperative Bank, in order to streamline the access to financing for Iraqi smallholder farmers and youth economic empowerment for those who lack the necessary collateral.

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.