In Numbers

3.2 million Iraqis displaced (IOM)
930,000 Iraqis assisted by WFP
244,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)
56,000 Syrian refugees assisted by WFP

Highlights

- On 25 September 2017, several million people voted in a referendum on independence for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. WFP has prepared a Concept of Operations (CONOPs) in the event that the humanitarian situation deteriorates further following the referendum.

- WFP has been assisting families fleeing the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)-held areas in western Anbar, Shirqat and Hawija. More than 73,000 people on the move were assisted in September 2017.

Situation Update

- Following the referendum on independence for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, tensions between the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government have risen sharply. While WFP has a CONOPS in place, these recent developments risk restricting humanitarian access in several areas and leaving WFP staff stranded in the Kurdistan Region. Supply routes from Turkey may be severely affected, in particular those around disputed territories. WFP has pre-positioned stock across the country, made IT and administrative checks and ensured all technical units are prepared should the situation change in the coming weeks.

- During the two-week military operations to retake Shirqat and Hawiga from ISIL, WFP supported 37,000 civilians in need of humanitarian assistance who had been displaced from their homes. WFP has been providing Immediate Response Rations (IRRs) to those reaching camps and screening centres. Due to rapid security screening and consolidation of the retaken areas, many families have been able to quickly return to their homes, with humanitarian assistance only needed temporarily.

- Western Anbar is the last area in which ISIL controls territory in Iraq. With military operations ongoing, WFP continues to provide life-saving food assistance to those people most in need.

WFP Response

- Under EMOP 200677, WFP assisted 930,000 displaced Iraqis through Family Food Rations (FFRs) and Cash-Based Transfers (CBTs) in September 2017, as well as 73,000 people with Immediate Response Rations.

- As part of the regional PRRO 200987, which supports Syrian refugees who have fled the conflict, WFP provides USD 19 per person, per month through cash and e-vouchers to 56,000 Syrian refugees. They reside in nine camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I).

- WFP leads three inter-agency clusters to coordinate humanitarian action on the ground. Co-led with FAO, the Food Security Cluster works with local partners to coordinate the food security response to the crisis in Iraq. By heading the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters through Special Operation 200746, WFP assists UN and NGO partners to ensure an effective logistics and telecommunications response.
Food Assistance

- In September 2017, WFP provided FFRs to 747,000 people in nine governorates and assisted 183,000 people with Cash-based Transfers.
- WFP provided one-off assistance to over 72,000 people inside Mosul in September 2017, all receiving Family Food Rations. Access across three of the five bridges in Mosul City is now possible for the humanitarian community, while another bridge will be accessible in October 2017. IDPs from Mosul are gradually returning to their homes, with 6,400 leaving camps since 11 June 2017. Of these, 74 percent said they were returning home as they felt it was now safe enough to do so.
- WFP has been providing assistance to families fleeing ISIL-held areas in western Anbar. Over 22,000 people fleeing their homes since the 17 September 2017 have been provided with WFP emergency food assistance at screening centres. Many families have had to pay people smugglers at least USD 400 to be transported from western Anbar, through the desert, to near Kilo 18 displacement camp, close to Ramadi. In order to pay this amount and escape from ISIL-held areas, households are selling cars, livestock and valuable items, though security risks remain high. Two hundred IDPs were recently caught by ISIL, the traffickers were killed, the women and children were taken back to western Anbar and the men were forced to fight with ISIL.
- Following a curfew on 27 and 28 September, a WFP partner was able to distribute FFRs to families in Kilo 18 camp on 29 September. However, an ISIL attack nearby that afternoon meant that 20 partner staff were trapped in the camp while Iraqi Security Forces rebuffed the attack. There were no staff or civilian casualties reported, nevertheless the incident shows that parts of the country remain unstable.
- Since the military operation to retake Shirqat and Hawiga and surrounding areas from ISIL began on 21 September, approximately 37,000 people have been assisted by WFP with emergency food rations. Many families had to swim across the Zab River to reach safety, where shelters and camps were available. Following the military’s retaking and consolidation of these areas, most people were quickly able to return to their homes following a brief displacement.

Supply Chain

- As of 15 October 2017, WFP had 19,860 mt of mixed commodities at logistics hubs in Dohuk, Erbil and Baghdad, sufficient stock to assist 1.4 million people for one month. There were 141,619 IRRs in WFP warehouses, enough to assist 354,000 people with two rations. Ahead of the Kurdistan referendum, stock was pre-positioned to better safeguard the speed of WFP assistance throughout the country.

Clusters

- **Food Security Cluster (FSC)**
  - The FSC provided inputs to the inter-cluster operational plan for Hawiga. FSC partners responded with IRRs and FFRs. FSC partners are now preparing for the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan.
- **Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)**
  - The ETC has been in communication with United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) about expanding the telecommunications network, which would enable staff to reach the Erbil radio room from the field, particularly from Qayyarah.
- **Logistics Cluster**
  - On 04 October 2017, the Logistics Cluster, UNAMI and UNICEF conducted an assessment to the Ibrahim Khalil border, located between Turkey and Iraq. The cluster is reviewing Iraqi border crossings as a preparedness measure with regards to the Kurdistan referendum.

Resourcing Update

- Whilst WFP requires no additional funding for its operation up to the end of 2017, in order to maintain operational viability of funding through 2018, funding contributions will be needed. For the first six months of 2018, WFP will require USD 121.5 million to assist both Syrian refugees and Iraqi IDPs. This includes USD 27.9 million for resilience activities.
- In 2018, WFP Iraq will begin transitioning to a Country Strategic Plan, which better enables WFP to support the Government of Iraq in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

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### WFP Iraq

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<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Total Received (in USD)</th>
<th>Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>People Reached (September 2017)</th>
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