



WFP Iraq Situation Report #73

February 2020

In Numbers

1.40 million internally displaced people (IOM)

4.66 million returnees (IOM)

356,389 Iraqi IDPs, returnees + host communities assisted by WFP

248,162 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

21,814 Syrian refugees in camps assisted by WFP

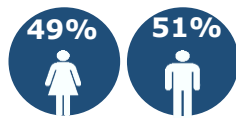
Highlights

- In February, WFP delivered food assistance to 378,203 people in 11 governorates, reaching 58 percent of the monthly target of 652,661 people.
- The percentage reached in February was mainly due to banking transfer delays and growing operational challenges due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).
- WFP needs an additional USD 47.1 million to ensure that operations continue without interruption through September 2020.

People assisted

378,203

February 2020



Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 01 January 2020 – 31 December 2024	Overall: USD 472.5 m
	Received in 2020: USD 50.0 m
Six Months Net Funding Requirements	
April – September 2020	USD 47.1 m

Situation Update

- Anti-government protests continue since 1 October (except in the Kurdistan Region (KR) and some northern areas). There has been continued uncertainty and civil unrest after the rejection of both the former Prime Minister and PM-elect.
- Rockets continue to be aimed at the Green Zone and US facilities, with a rocket hitting the US Embassy on 16 Feb, with no injuries to personnel.
- By the end of February 2020, over 21,000 people had fled from northeast Syria into Duhok in the Kurdistan Region, following the Turkish operations that started in October.

WFP Response

Food and Cash Assistance

- In February, WFP delivered food assistance to 378,203 people in 11 governorates, reaching 58 percent of the monthly target of 652,661 people. This was mainly due to banking transfer delays, and growing operational challenges due to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). 209,031 IDPs from the January cycle were also reached in February, due to delays in January amidst the civil unrest.
- Since the start of the influx of refugees from northeast Syria in October, WFP has delivered food assistance for over 21,000 people in Bardarash and Gawilan camps in Duhok governorate in the Kurdistan Region. In both camps, WFP is distributing ready-to-eat food packages (IRR – Immediate Response Ration) for new arrivals, and one-month rations (FFR – Food Family Ration) after two days. A total of 159.5 mt were distributed. From March, a hybrid of food and cash assistance will be distributed.

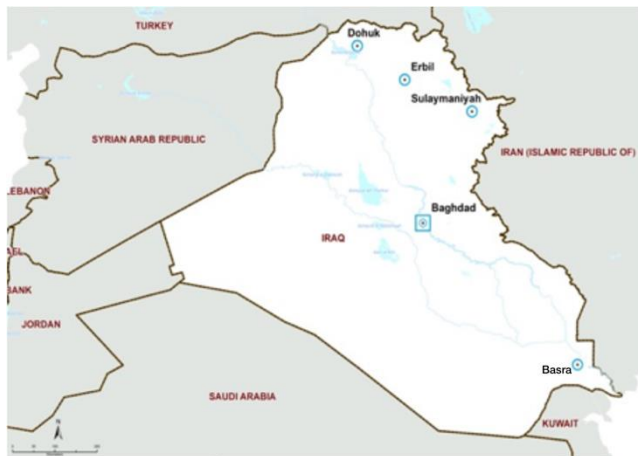


Photo: On Sinjar mountain, Ninewa, WFP and partner Triangle Génération Humanaire are running an innovative rainwater conservation and tree planting project, as part of WFP's resilience activities. ©WFP / Elodie Jégo

- In addition, WFP made cash-based transfers to 14,816 refugees in the Kurdistan Region, with a total amount of USD 276,465.



Food for Assets / Resilience

- WFP's Resilience Team met with FAO to discuss operationalising the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed last year. The agencies will collaborate on a workshop to plan resilience activities in Basra, on mapping current activities in the north, and on a roadmap for joint programming for the next five years.
- EMPACT Food for Training activities were on hold in February, preparing for the new cohort which is to begin in April.



School Feeding Programme

- The school feeding programme continued to expand across Iraq. In February, three additional governorates (Wasit, Thi-Qar and Maysan) started the programme, increasing the number of reached students to 312,373. Due to COVID-19 however, many schools across the country are temporarily closed as a precautionary measure, meaning that the delivery of meals is also on hold.



Capacity Building

- Under the testing phase of the digitalization of Iraq's social protection programme, the Public Distribution System (PDS) of food rations, WFP is providing thought leadership in identity management and interoperability services to the government, to leverage existing iris biometrics held by the Ministry of Interior (as the custodian of identity documents in Iraq) for the verification and provision of other government social protection services. Discussions

with the Ministry of Interior continue around linking the PDS functional identity with the national unified foundational ID document.



Supply Chain

- Obtaining approvals for the movement of food trucks continues to be challenging, because of new processes between the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center (JCMC) and the National Operations Center (NOC) with constantly changing processes for getting movement approvals.
- WFP is undertaking a nationwide "Markets and Supply Chain Assessment" to inform the delivery of WFP assistance to a broad variance of people in the north, central and south regions. The results of the study are expected to be produced by mid-2020.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- The FSC conducted two joint monitoring missions to the Cluster's Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF) funded projects in Diyala and Ninewa, between December 2019 and February 2020. The outcomes of the monitoring missions and lessons learned were presented at FSC meetings, to better coordinate and improve the quality of future cluster projects.
- The FSC is facilitating the consistent participation of the focal points at the sub-national Inter-cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) meetings, to improve coordination on the sub-national level.
- For the purpose of partner presence and activity mapping, the FSC is continuing to pioneer its new online interactive dashboard. Partners are uploading their ongoing and planned activities into the platform, on a monthly basis: <https://bit.ly/32o7KBI>

For further information, visit: wfp.org/countries/iraq

Country Strategic Plan (CSP), 01 February 2020 - 31 December 2020)

	CSP Requirements in 2020 (in USD)	Allocated Contributions in 2020 (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April – September 2020)	People Assisted (February 2020)	Female	Male
CSP TOTAL (Jan 2020 – Dec 2020)	178.8 m	40.0 m	47.1 m	378,203	185,319	192,884

WFP would like to thank all donors for their contributions, including:



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