**Highlights**

- WFP urgently requires USD 45.2 million to cover net funding requirements for the six months (May-October 2018), with the largest for IDPs general food assistance.
- Elections for the Council of Representatives took place on May 12, 2018, with Muqtada al-Sadr’s Sairoon Coalition winning the highest number of seats 54 seats, with no outright majority, leading to initiating negotiations to form a coalition government.

**Situation Update**

- Returns of displaced Iraqis to their areas of origin continues to outpace displacements, with 3.8 million returnees and 2.1 million internally displaced people as of 15 May (IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix).
- On 10 April, the Kurdistan Regional Government together with the UN and its humanitarian partners held a high-level joint conference focusing on the priority needs for the Kurdistan Region. In order to deliver humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people in the Kurdistan Region, the humanitarian community in Iraq is seeking USD 156 million to implement activities outlined in 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan.
- Elections for the Council of Representatives took place on May 12, 2018. Muqtada al-Sadr’s Sairoon Coalition come out on top with 54 seats. With no party/coalition winning the 165 seats required for an outright majority, negotiations to form a coalition government are expected to continue for weeks, if not much longer. Although the elections concluded with relatively little violence, the country now enters a period of political uncertainty. A day after the elections, preliminary results caused civil unrest across the country, most notably in Kirkuk Governorate.

**WFP Response**

- **Food and Nutrition Assistance**
  - In consultation with affected communities, WFP uses the cash-based transfer (CBT) modality as opposed to in-kind food distributions when it is most appropriate. This includes the fulfilment of key indicators – market analysis, access, security, cash
liquidity, gender and protection analysis, etc. During the April cycle, 209,214 Iraqis received CBTs through the SCOPE platform. More than USD 3.6 million was disbursed to beneficiaries, providing vital assistance as well as a substantial injection of cash into local markets and boosting demand for goods.

- In April, WFP provided Family Food Rations (FFRs) to 349,748 people in eight governorates of Iraq, and Immediate Response Rations (IRR) to 142,780 people as a top up of the monthly rations. A total of 210 mt of food was distributed in the process.
- In April 2018, WFP continued the Government-funded school feeding programme in Western Mosul. The programme is managed in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and reached 82,019 girls and boys for 20 days.
- A total of 58,908 vulnerable Syrian refugees received assistance from WFP in April. All beneficiaries received IQD 22,000 (USD 19) per beneficiary, per month. More than USD 1.1 million was disbursed to beneficiaries through e-vouchers and cash transfer where the situation allows.
- In line with the first pilot successfully implemented at the end of 2017, WFP and its partners, in cooperation with the Ministry of Water Resources, started the second phase of rehabilitation of canals and greenhouses in Anbar and Baghdad governorates, to support returnees and host communities rebuild their livelihoods.
- WFP is engaging with non-governmental organisations partners and the Ministry of Water Resources to begin the rehabilitation of the Al Zab water scheme in Nimrod sub-district (Hamdaniya) in Ninea Governorate. In the first phase, the project will concentrate on the rehabilitation of the water boosting station and 28km of arterial canals through CBT modality targeting 606 participants. The project will begin once the clearance of explosive remnants of war is completed.

**Clustering and Common Services**

**Food Security Cluster**

- The Food Security Cluster continues its support to the humanitarian community for a coordinated and prioritised food security and livelihoods assistance to conflict-affected Iraqis throughout the country, with coordination meetings held in Baghdad, Erbil, Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk.
- The Cluster posted an Agro-ecological Map of Iraq highlighting six agro-ecological zones, their related agricultural activities and the governorates they occupy.

**Logistics Cluster**

- The Logistics Cluster continues its support to the humanitarian community for a coordinated and efficient humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected Iraqis throughout the country, with coordination meetings held in Baghdad, Erbil, Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah and Dohuk.
- The Logistics Cluster is mapping custom/import procedures in order to assist humanitarian partners importing humanitarian cargo into Iraq. The aim is to clarify procedures, linkage with government entities, mapping of constraints and identification of possible solutions for efficient and enhanced humanitarian import processes. The project is also benefitting from the partnership with a commercial logistics company, who is providing support for these activities.
- The project complements the One Stop Shop (OSS) that facilitates import processes and clearance of humanitarian cargo in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in coordination with the Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). The OSS brings together representatives from relevant ministries under a designated director with the delegation of authority to approve clearance and access requests.
- As of April 2018, the Logistics Cluster has made available: 4,140 m² of inter-agency storage in Dohuk, 2,700 m² in Erbil, 3,120 m² in Hamam Al Alil, 3,400 m² in Tikrit and 1,000 m² in Baghdad.

**Emergency Telecommunications Cluster**

- In April, 1,600 internet connectivity vouchers were issued in 17 camps where data connectivity is provided by the ETC cluster.
- An assessment mission was carried to Mosul University for possible provision of connectivity Services for Communities (S4C). ETC is also coordinating with International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for provision of support to Community Response Centers (CRC) with strong emphasis on government capacity building.
**Partnerships**

- WFP received a generous contribution of EUR 0.5 million from the Government of France in support of general food assistance (CBTs) to IDPs in Iraq.
- The Qatar Fund for Development announced a USD 3 million contribution for general food assistance (cash-based transfers) to IDPs in Iraq at the Aid & Trade Conference in London in April.
- WFP allocated USD 3.5 million through the Strategic Resource Allocation Committee (SRAC) for resilience activities in Iraq.

**Resourcing update**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WFP Operation</th>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Total Received (in USD)</th>
<th>6-months Net Funding Requirements* (in USD)</th>
<th>People Assisted (April 2018)</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TICSP TOTAL (2018)</td>
<td>216.8 m</td>
<td>131.3 m</td>
<td>45.2</td>
<td>760,727</td>
<td>376,395</td>
<td>384,332</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* May-October 2018
(not including SO5 of the TICSP – Provision of cluster services and common platforms)

**Contacts**

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