



WFP Iraq Country Brief

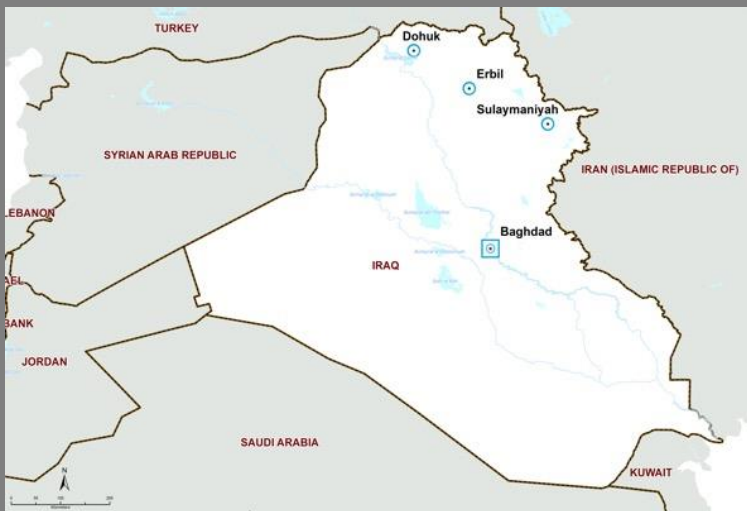
May 2018

Operational Context

In April 2014, WFP launched an Emergency Programme to respond to the food needs of 240,000 displaced people from Anbar Governorate. The upsurge in conflict and the concurrent downturn in the macro-economy continues to threaten livelihoods, increase rates of poverty in low economic areas and contribute to vulnerability and food insecurity, especially among internally displaced persons, women, girls and boys, and the poor. Priority concerns in the country focus on emergency response, recovery and reconstruction.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 2 on zero hunger and SDG 17 on partnerships, WFP is working closely with partners to contribute to ending poverty and hunger, promoting an inclusive society, and strengthening partnerships. In this regard, WFP's assistance continues to focus on saving lives and protecting livelihoods in an effort to support the people of Iraq to achieve zero hunger, and it is aligned with the 2018 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan, the Recovery and Resilience Programme, and the Regional Refugee and Resilience

In line with the corporate Integrated Road Map process, WFP Iraq has transitioned to a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) starting 01 January till 31 December 2018.



Population: **37.9 million** (Government, 2016)

2016 Human Development Index: **121 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Malnutrition: **5-8% in children <5** (CFSVA, 2016)

In Numbers

4,454 mt of food assistance distributed in May 2018

USD 3.60 m cash-based transfers made

USD 59.3 m seven-month net funding requirements (June-December 2018)

600,061 people assisted in May 2018



Operational Updates

- Returns of displaced Iraqis to their areas of origin continue to outpace displacements, with 3.8 million returnees and 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of 31 May ([IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix](#)). Baghdad, Erbil, and Dahuk are the only governorates where the number of IDPs is higher than that of returnees. The governorates with the highest number of returnees are Ninewa (37 percent), Anbar (33 percent) and Salah al Din (14 percent).
- However, the pace of returns slowed significantly in the first semester of 2018 as the Government announced that IDPs could vote in camps. Moreover, IDPs are hesitant to return because of insecurity, destroyed infrastructure or lack of job and livelihood opportunities. These families are likely to face protracted displacement and would require further assistance.
- Although the 12 May 2018 parliamentary elections and electioneering concluded with relatively little violence, the country has entered a period of political uncertainty as no party/coalition commanded an outright majority. Amidst allegations of widespread fraud, the Parliament voted on 6 June to carry out a manual recount of votes cast, and decided to replace the leadership of the election commission and annul the votes of overseas and displaced Iraqis.
- The first phase of the School Meals Programme in Mosul City concluded in May 2018. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, the initiative provided emergency school meals to up to 90,000 girls and boys in 87 schools as a measure to support their regular access and return to safe education to prevent a "lost generation." WFP will support the Ministry of Education in further expanding this programme to the most conflict-affected and otherwise vulnerable areas across Iraq for the school year commencing in September 2018.
- WFP and FAO are planning to collaborate on the rehabilitation of the North al-Jazeera Irrigation scheme in Ninewa district in coordination with the Directorate of Agriculture and Water Resources. The project entails the renovations of the main and secondary pumping station, the reconstruction of bridges, water locks and the cleaning of the main irrigation canals with heavy equipment.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Saif AlTatooz
Caption: Children enjoy irrigation canals cleared by WFP in Anbar's Garma district

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WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Seven-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June – December)
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Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (01 January-31 December 2018)

216.8 m	131.3 m	59.3 m
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WFP Country Activities

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- SO 1**
- 1- Provision of general food assistance in the form of regular cash-based transfers or in-kind monthly food entitlements and ready-to-eat rations in the initial phase of displacement.
 - 2- Provision of assistance in schools newly reclaimed and rehabilitated.
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- SO 2**
- 3- Provision of general food assistance to vulnerable refugees.
 - 4- Provision of support for resilience and livelihood activities for Syrian refugees.
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- SO 3**
- 5- Resilience building through livelihood activities and social protection to support the food insecure.
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- SO 4**
- 6- Nutrition capacity strengthening for Government partners.
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- SO 5**
- 7- Provision of cluster services and common platforms for the humanitarian community.

Monitoring

- In May 2018, WFP conducted 201 sites visits, amongst which are 76 in-kind distribution sites, 27 e-voucher distributions, 17 shops, 55 cash-out point 1 cash-out point for Syrian refugees, 5 sites for the Tech for Food project, 15 locations for resilience and livelihoods activities, and 5 primary schools. Additionally, 107 beneficiary monitoring interviews were carried out in May.
- WFP Iraq completed the Food Security and Outcome Monitoring report (Q2 2018) for general food assistance for IDPs and vulnerable Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Preliminary findings show that the food consumption score stabilised from the previous the quarter and improved when compared to the value registered for the same period last year.

Challenges

- Irregular armed actors continue to stage hit and run attacks in Diyala, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din Governorates, resulting in the death and injury of civilians and members of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF).
- Returning conflict-affected populations face significant constraints, including lack of employment opportunities and services damaged homes and infrastructure.
- WFP was forced to postpone Cash-for-Work activities in the Hamdaniya District, Ninewa due to the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXOs). Activities will begin after the feast of Eid al-Fitr (third week of June) and will rehabilitate a boosting station and 28km of arterial canals part of the Al Zab water network. The project also includes provision of agriculture inputs and services for the restoration of agriculture production in the Ninewa plains.

Donors

- The Logistics Cluster, led by WFP, received a generous contribution of US\$860,000 from the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF). With this contribution, the Cluster will continue to provide coordination and information management support to the humanitarian community, and facilitate common storage services for humanitarian supplies at three main operational hubs in Baghdad, Dahuk and Erbil, while maintaining a stock of mobile storage units ready to be deployed and installed at short notice.
- Activities under the TICSP have received generous contributions from Japan, Germany, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, the Iraq Humanitarian Fun (IHF), France and Norway.

