



WFP Iraq Country Brief

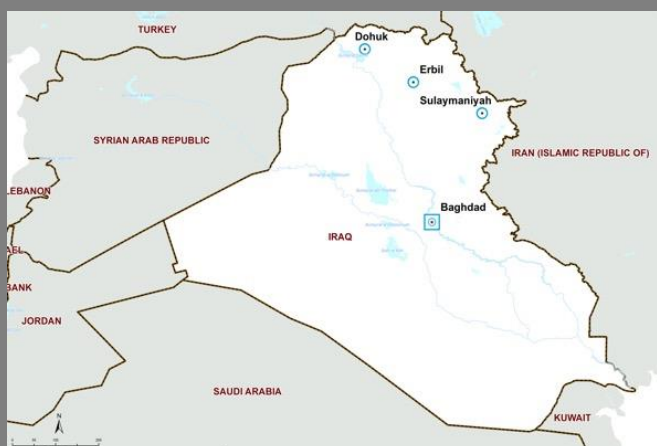
June 2018

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. As the situation of the displaced population remains precarious, and needs rise following the return process that began in early 2018, WFP priority concerns in the country continue to focus on emergency response to displaced people, with additional recovery and reconstruction activities to support returnees.

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 in an effort to support the people of Iraq to achieve zero hunger, promoting an inclusive society, and strengthening partnerships. WFP's assistance is aligned with the 2018 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan, the Recovery and Resilience Programme, and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for the Syria crisis.

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

4,325 mt of food assistance distributed in
June 2018

USD 4.7 cash-based transfers made

USD 39.9 m six-month (July-December 2018)
net funding requirements

585,917 people assisted
in June 2018

49%



51%



Operational Updates

- Returns of displaced Iraqis to their areas of origin continue, with more than 3.9 million returnees and 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of 30 June ([IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix](#)). The highest numbers of returns are recorded in Ninewa Governorate, with 37 percent of the total number of returnees; Anbar Governorate with 32.5 percent; and Salah al-Din Governorate with 14 percent.
- The pace of returns slowed significantly in the second quarter of 2018 as the Government allowed IDPs to vote in the camps for the parliamentary elections. Moreover, returns are hampered by insecurity, damaged infrastructure and lack of job and livelihoods opportunities. These families are likely to face protracted displacement and will continue to require assistance.
- On 12 June, Muqtada al-Sadr announced a political alliance between his Saairun faction and Fatah Alliance, led by Hadi Al-Amiri, in a bid to lead the country over the next four years. Earlier in June, the outgoing parliament passed a law mandating a nationwide manual recount of all votes; the panel of judges in charge of the process declared it would only be conducted for those problematic ballots in Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah, Erbil, Dohuk, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Anbar.
- The cleaning of the canals that are part of the Al Zab water network in Hamdaniyah (Ninewa Governorate) started in June, with about 600 participants under the cash-for-work schemes, and will continue in July. The project entails the rehabilitation of the main boosting station, and the cleaning of 28km of arterial canals. The project also includes provision of agriculture inputs and services for the restoration of agriculture production in the Ninewa plains.
- The cleaning of 36km of water canals in Garma (Anbar Governorate) has been completed. The second phase of the project, entailing the cleaning and rehabilitation of Warrigation canals in Abayashi (Baghdad Governorate) has started and is expected to be completed by August 2018.

WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July - December 2018)
Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (01 January - 31 December 2018)		
216.8 m	152.3 m	39.9 m

WFP Country Activities

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| SO 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. |
| SO 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3- Provision of general food assistance to vulnerable refugees. 4- Provision of support for resilience and livelihood activities for Syrian refugees. |
| SO 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5- Resilience building through livelihood activities and social protection to support the food insecure. |
| SO 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6- Nutrition capacity strengthening for Government partners. |
| SO 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7- Provision of cluster services and common platforms for the humanitarian community. |

Monitoring

- 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 quarter and improved when compared to the value registered for the same period last year.
- In June, WFP conducted 120 sites visits: 60 in-kind distribution sites, 18 e-voucher distributions, 25 shops, 7 cash-out points for IDPs, 1 cash-out point for Syrian refugees, 6 sites for the Tech for Food projects, and 3 sites visits to locations hosting resilience activities. Additionally, 45 beneficiary monitoring interviews were carried out in June.
- Baseline data collection processes for livelihood and resilience activities are ongoing in the areas of intervention.

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.

Donors

- In June, WFP received a contribution of USD 1.0 million from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development in support of the Tech for Food project. With this contribution, WFP will be able to continue providing trainings for Syrian refugees in Sulaymaniyeh, and will expand the activities to refugees and Iraqi nationals in Dohuk, Erbil, and Mosul.
- Activities under the TICSP have received generous contributions from Japan, Germany, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, the Iraq Humanitarian Fund (IHF), France and Norway.

GENDER MARKER 1 