



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Iraq Country Brief September 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's 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) from 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% of children <5**
(CFSVA, 2016)

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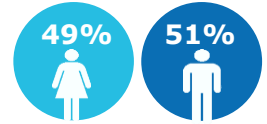
In Numbers

12,270 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$4.4 m cash-based transfers made

US\$57.3 m six months (October 2018 - March 2019) net funding requirements

478,400 people assisted
in September 2018



Operational Updates

- Returns of displaced Iraqis to their areas of origin continue, with almost 4.1 million returnees and 1.89 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of 30 September ([IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix](#)). Almost 94,000 families are reported to be still displaced in camps, and more than 221,000 in out-of-camp settings. The highest numbers of returns are recorded in Ninewa Governorate (38.5 percent of the total number of returnees) and Anbar Governorate (31.4 percent). The highest number of IDPs remain in Ninewa Governorate (31.3 percent of the total number of IDPs) and Dohuk (18.4 percent).
- WFP is scaling up its Food-Assistance-for-Assets (FFA) interventions in support of vulnerable Iraqi returnees and local communities in Anbar, Baghdad, Dohuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates. Ongoing resilience activities include rehabilitation of boosting stations and irrigation canals, agriculture support through distribution of inputs and trainings; rehabilitation of animal shelters and slaughtering facilities, repair of agriculture training facilities, reconstruction of communal bread ovens, and rehabilitation of damaged greenhouses.
- Following the finalisation of [the Joint Vulnerability Assessment \(JVA\) for Syrian Refugees in Iraq](#), WFP together with UNHCR continues the targeting and verification exercise of Syrian refugee households in camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq to identify the most vulnerable households so they continue to receive the food assistance they require. The exercise is expected to be completed by January 2019.

Monitoring

- In September, WFP conducted 122 site visits, including 27 in-kind distribution sites, 23 e-voucher distributions, 19 shops, 45 cash-out points for IDPs and 1 cash-out point for refugees and 7 Tech-for-Food sites. Additionally, 40 beneficiary monitoring interviews were carried out during the reporting period.

Impact of Limited Funding

- Due to funding constraints, WFP was forced to reduce in-kind food rations and cash-based transfers (CBTs) temporarily in all IDP camps. In September, a single Family Food Parcel / CBT was distributed covering two months. This is due to a funding shortfall, resulting in insufficient food to meet the full needs of beneficiaries. WFP Iraq has actively worked to mobilize resources and will be able to return to monthly full rations starting November 2018.

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (01 January - 31 December 2018)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2018 – March 2019)
216.8 m	170.6 m	57.3 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food insecure households of IDPs in affected areas have access to life-saving and nutritious food throughout 2018.

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

- 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.
- Provision of assistance in schools newly reclaimed and rehabilitated.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2: Food insecure Syrian refugees have access to life-saving and nutritious food throughout the year.

Focus area: *Crisis Response*

Activities:

- Provision of general food assistance to vulnerable refugees.
- Provision of support for resilience and livelihoods activities for Syrian refugees.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable returnees and conflict-affected communities rebuild their assets, recover livelihoods and improve their food security across the country by the end of 2018.

Focus area: *Resilience Building*

Activities:

- Resilience building through livelihood activities and social protection to support the food insecure.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 4: Vulnerable groups, including children, adolescents, and pregnant and lactating women and girls have improved nutritional awareness through IYCF, and the government capacity is strengthened to manage fortified food commodities through national safety net programme by end of 2018.

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Nutrition capacity strengthening for government partners.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise, and technology

Strategic Outcome 5: Effective coordination for humanitarian support in Iraq

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

- Provision of cluster services and common platforms for the humanitarian community.

- Based on current funding situation, a pipeline break for in-kind food assistance will occur in April 2019, while for CBT will occur in March 2019.

Challenges

- Following months of negotiations amongst the winning parties of national elections over the next governing coalition, a large parliamentary bloc was formed at the beginning of September 2018, which made it possible on 15 September to elect MP Mohammed Halbusi Speaker of the Council of Representatives. The speaker is then supposed to appoint Iraq's next president.
- Heavy protests continue in the southern oil hub of Basra, with hundreds of Iraqis demanding basic services such as electricity, clean drinking water, jobs and ending pervasive corruption. On 6 September, protesters blocked the entrance of Umm Qasr commodities port near Basra, resulting in the halting of all operations. Umm Qasr is a key entry point for private sector food commodities such as grain, vegetable oil and sugar shipments, that feed a country largely dependent on imported food. Protesters stormed political parties' buildings, private schools and hospitals, as well as the Iranian Consulate in Basra, damaging and torching structures. This does not have any implications on WFP operations.
- Thousands of people have been seeking medical assistance over the past weeks in Basra due to water contamination and water-borne diseases. The federal government has granted the Governor of Basra the necessary authorisations to expedite projects to improve water filtration and purification, the rehabilitation of water pipeline networks, and the extension of new pipelines. The Ministry of Finance announced that more than 53 billion dinars has been released to cover investment expenditures in the province. This does not have any implications on WFP operations.
- On 7 September, three mortar shells landed inside Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone. The mortars landed on an abandoned lot, resulting in no casualties or physical damage. The mortar attack is the first in several years on the Green Zone, which houses parliament, government buildings, many foreign embassies and UN compounds.

Donors

Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund (IHPF), Japan, Norway, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Switzerland, United States of America