



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief June 2019

In Numbers

305,579 people assisted
in June 2019



1,080 mt of food assistance distributed

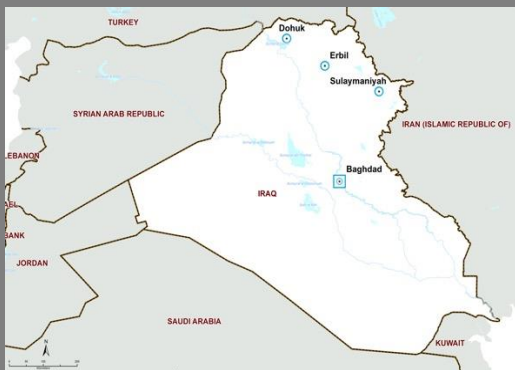
USD 2.51 million cash-based transfers made

USD 70.8 million six months (July–December 2019)
net funding requirements

Operational Context

Intermittent conflict continues to aggravate the poverty rate and threaten livelihoods in Iraq. As the situation and needs of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees remain precarious following the return process that began in 2018, WFP Iraq's assistance focuses on saving lives and protecting livelihoods – supporting the Government of Iraq's social safety nets towards zero hunger. Through emergency assistance to IDPs and refugees, and recovery and reconstruction activities for returnees, WFP is helping the Iraqi government reduce vulnerability and build people's resilience and food security - especially for IDPs, refugees, women, girls and boys.

Working towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – in particular SDG 2 "Zero Hunger" & SDG 17 "Partnerships for the Goals" – WFP is collaborating with partners to support Iraq in achieving food security and improved nutrition, promoting an inclusive society and strengthening cooperation. WFP's assistance is aligned with the Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan, the UN Recovery and Resilience Programme framework, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for the Syria crisis, the General Framework of the National Plan for Reconstruction and Development, and Iraq's National Poverty Reduction Strategy. In line with the corporate Integrated Road Map process, WFP Iraq transitioned to a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) from 01 January 2018 until 31 December 2019.



Population: **39 million**
(Ministry of Trade, 2019)

Poverty rate: **22.5%**
(World Bank, 2017)

2018 Human Development Index:
120 out of 188

2.5 million food insecure people
(Humanitarian Response Plan, 2019)

Operational Updates

- In June, WFP delivered food assistance to 305,579 people in 10 governorates, reaching 85.5 percent of the monthly target of 357,251 people. This is partly due to some returns of IDPs in Ninewa governorate. In addition, since the refugee targeting exercise ended in February, WFP has been reaching a lower number of refugees than initially planned, as the needs have proved lower than expected.
- As a result of the increased coordination with the Government and new donor contributions, WFP will return to a 4-week distribution cycle from 1 July, after being forced to move to a 6-week cycle since March 2019 due to a lack of resources. Messaging is being shared with assisted people through Communication with Communities (CwC).
- Crop fires continue to be reported throughout the country. There has been no impact on WFP operations, but the food security and overall security situation continue to be closely monitored.
- After several months, Qayarah Bridge, Ninewa Governorate, in the north-west of the country, reopened in late June for vehicles and trucks, allowing for the regular delivery of food items to large IDP camps in Mosul, which had been delayed.
- Under the trial project aiming at the modernization of the Public Distribution System of food, registration of citizens by iris scanning started in Anbar. About 60 percent of the people that will receive assistance have already been scanned. Roll-out will continue in Al-Muthana, Sadr city in Baghdad and Thi-Qar in July.
- Following the assessment mission on the feasibility of transitioning from e-vouchers to Mobile Money Transfers (MMT), and the recommendation to switch to MMT in all 13 camps assessed (for approximately 50,000 IDPs and 33,500 refugees), SIM card distributions began in the camps under transition.

Contact: Sharon Rapose (sharon.rapose@wfp.org)
Country Director: Abdirahman Meygay
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/iraq

Photo: Researchers investigate the current status of the PDS and options for improvement and modernisation – including a new smartphone "app" for citizens. ©WFP/Georgette Menassa.

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TISCP, 01 January 2018–31 December 2019)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
341.1 m	220.6 m
Total Requirements for 2019 (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July – December 2019)
162.1 m	70.8 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1 (SO 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 (SO 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 (SO 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 livelihoods activities and social protection to support the food insecure.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 4 (SO 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.

Focus area: Nutrition capacity strengthening for Government partners

Activities:

- Iraqi institutions receive capacity strengthening training in order to improve nutrition of children, adolescents and pregnant and lactating women and girls across the country.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology

Strategic Outcome 5 (SO 5): Effective coordination for humanitarian support in Iraq

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

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

- Following discussions with the Ministry of Education, School Feeding is expected to resume in October for the coming

Monitoring and Assessments

- In June 2019, WFP conducted 128 site visits, including 22 in-kind distribution sites, 21 e-voucher distributions, 24 shops, 23 cash-out points for internally displaced people (IDPs), 27 Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) through cash, 10 EMPACT (formerly Tech for Food) and one cash-out point for refugees. Additionally, 39 beneficiary monitoring interviews were carried out. All feedback is shared with the Programme team for necessary adjustments to the implementation. For example, the use of flyers was recommended as part of CwC to better inform assisted people of their entitlements, and in particular remind them to not pay fees when redeeming their cash via Mobile Money Transfer (MMT).
- Over the course of May and June, WFP, the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) and partners undertook a census of every family living in every official IDP camp. The questionnaire was focused on identifying IDP families whose income would allow them to meet their food security needs. The results showed reduced needs, and therefore support a reduction in assistance of 12.7 percent (53,781 people), bringing the current WFP target of IDPs in camps to 370,310. The largest factors in support of the reduction are: a) some IDPs do not show up at distributions; b) some IDPs returned to their area of origin; and c) the income of some IDPs is above the threshold. The adjustment in the number of targeted IDPs is to be implemented from the July cycle.
- WFP Iraq has begun formative research on Nutrition and Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) in the Kurdistan Region (KR-I) and Kirkuk. This will form the basis of a draft SBCC action plan.
- Under the testing phase of the modernization of the PDS, throughout June WFP's partner Tiger Spike conducted research in Baghdad, Anbar, Najaf, Basra and Duhok with citizens, food agents and PDS staff to better understand how to meet their needs and how a smartphone application may be an effective potential solution.

Funding and Pipeline update

- Due to insufficient resources, WFP needs an additional USD 70.8 million to ensure that operations continue without interruption through December. WFP specifically calls for donors to support SO 1 (IDPs) and SO 3 (resilience).

Donors

Principal donors to the TISCP:

United States, Germany, Japan, Canada, France, Australia.

Other significant donors to the TISCP include:

Switzerland, Republic of Korea, UN Funds excl. CERF, Qatar, Denmark, Kuwait, Norway, Russia, Belgium, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Iceland, Private Donors, Romania.