

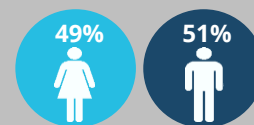


SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Iraq Country Brief July 2019

## In Numbers

**378,787** people assisted  
in July 2019



**1,87 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 3.04 million** cash-based transfers made

**USD 68.2 million** six months (August 2019 – January 2020) net funding requirements

### Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict continues to aggravate the poverty rate and threaten livelihoods. Following the return process that began in 2018, the situation and needs of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees remain precarious. 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 July, WFP delivered food assistance to 378,787 people in 10 governorates, reaching 89.7 percent of the monthly target of 422,376 people. This is mainly due to some delays in Mobile Money Transfers (MMT) payments to people assisted due to banking regulations issues. WFP Iraq is taking steps to resolve this by opening a local bank account in Iraqi dinars.
- WFP Iraq continues to coordinate with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) to meet the food needs of IDPs. In Anbar, Ninewa and Salah al-Din, WFP delivered a "top-up" to MoMD's assistance. This represents around 65 to 70 percent of the total entitlement provided by MoMD and mainly consists of cereals and lentils (50 kg per-household) to complement MoMD's food basket, or a cash transfer of 11,000 IQD.
- General food assistance to refugees is now being delivered through MMT. The transition from e-vouchers included successful rounds of SIM card distributions in nine camps, with good coordination between WFP teams, partners, camp management and Financial Service Provider (FSP) teams.
- In close coordination with the Ministry of Education, preparations are underway to resume School Feeding in October for the new academic year. A Call for Proposals for cooperating partners took place, and recruitment for the new team is also starting.
- Over 1,000 students graduated from the first cycle of EMPACT digital skills training. They are now enrolled in advanced (Level 2) courses focusing on advanced digital skills and English. Outreach is underway for the second cycle of new students to begin Level 1 classes in August. WFP Iraq's sub-offices have received a donation of Google Chromebooks, which will be handed over to EMPACT classrooms for participants to use for freelance work from August.
- As part of the testing phase of the digitalisation of Iraq's Public Distribution System (PDS) social safety

**Contact:** Sharon Rapose (sharon.rapose@wfp.org)  
**Country Director:** Abdirahman Meygag  
Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/iraq](http://www.wfp.org/countries/iraq)

**Photo:** A keen kitchen gardener in Ninewa tends her crops. WFP's resilience projects have brought irrigation, training, tools and seeds to such vulnerable returnee communities. ©WFP/Sharon Rapose.

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>341.1 m</b>	<b>220.7 m</b>
Total Requirements for 2019 (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2019 – January 2020)
<b>162.1 m</b>	<b>68.2 m</b>

### 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.

net, WFP's partner Tiger Spike is developing the first iteration of a mobile smartphone application, "myPDS." The test roll-out of iris biometric registration continued in three

locations in Anbar governorate. The first ePDS distributions took place in Duhok and Najaf, and the second distribution cycle took place in Baghdad.

- In partnership with Mosul University, WFP Iraq's Resilience team has begun the "three-pronged approach" (3PA) training for the planning of resilience projects. The 3PA takes into account the nationwide, seasonal/livelihoods and community levels for planning.

## Monitoring and Assessments

- In July 2019, WFP conducted 168 site visits, including 57 in-kind distribution sites, 21 e-voucher distributions, 7 shops, 43 cash-out points for internally displaced people (IDPs) and Syrian refugees, 32 Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) through cash, 8 EMPACT (formerly Tech for Food) and one cash-out point for refugees. 25 beneficiary monitoring interviews were also carried out. WFP's MMT cooperating partners collaborated on MMT-related monitoring and evaluation, towards a smooth transition from e-vouchers to MMT.
- WFP Iraq has engaged a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) Consultant who began working with the local government in Anbar, Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Duhok, Kirkuk and Ninewa, to assess the steps required for the hand-over of the RRM to the government. Over the next five months, WFP's consultant will also evaluate potential emergency and disaster response management and capacity building needs of the government.
- WFP Iraq is continuing formative research on Nutrition and Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) in the Kurdistan Region (KR-I), Anbar and Baghdad. This will form the basis of a draft SBCC action plan.
- After a round of visits to the Duhok Camps, it was observed that some IDPs owned valuable productive and non-productive assets, and that their economic status appeared better than reported during the first phase of the IDP targeting exercise. WFP, with the Board of Relief and Humanities Affairs (BHRA), is planning to conduct a pilot second phase of IDP targeting in three selected IDP camps in Duhok. This second phase will be a house-to-house survey, focusing on three major indicators: asset ownership, income and expenditure.

## Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP needs an additional USD 68.2 million to ensure that operations can continue without interruption through January 2020. 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.