



WFP Iraq Country Brief November 2019

In Numbers

207,081 people assisted
in November 2019

49%



51%



**WFP
SAYS
NO to
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE**

1,981 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 1.36 million distributed through
cash-based transfers

USD 64.4 million six months net funding
requirements (January – June 2020)

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)

2019 Human Development Index:
120 of 188 (lowest)

1.44 million IDPs (IOM)
244,539 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP delivered food assistance to 207,081 people in 8 governorates, reaching 51 percent of the monthly target of 406,882 people. Due to the ongoing civil unrest, there were some delays in the cash transfers to people assisted.
- Protests continue in Iraq (except in the Kurdistan Region and some northern areas), spurred by disenfranchised people because of a lack of employment opportunities, perceived corruption and a lack of basic services. Due to the civil unrest, the Central Bank of Iraq's services continue to be limited, as their staff cannot safely reach the office. There is also limited internet countrywide. This means that some of WFP's mobile money transfer payments to people assisted were delayed to December, as the funds could not be transferred to Financial Service Providers.
- Turkey began a military operation in northeastern Syria on 9 October, which by the end of November had led to more than 17,000 people fleeing into Iraq. Arrivals slowed to 100-150 per day, and those being allowed to leave the camps are about equivalent, so the camp population is presently steady. By the end of November, WFP delivered food assistance for over 15,200 refugees in Bardarash and Gawilan camps in Duhok governorate in the Kurdistan Region. In both camps, WFP is distributing ready-to-eat food packages for new arrivals, and one-month rations after two days. WFP Iraq has IRRs available for up to 21,000 people, and FFRs for up to 40,000 people.
- In the second cycle of EMPACT (Empowerment in Action, formerly Tech for Food) digital skills training, students have begun pilot “Microwork” sessions in Mosul, Duhok, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, to train and mentor them during their first experiences of small-scale, online freelancing. The students are using Chromebooks donated by Google. The pilot will run until 31 December. Based on the results, WFP will decide on the next steps for Microwork.

Photo: Bardarash camp in Duhok, Kurdistan Region. A newly arrived refugee from northeast Syria collects a ready-to-eat WFP food package for his family. The packages do not require cooking and are enough for five people for three days.
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Contact: Sharon Rapose (sharon.rapose@wfp.org)

Representative: Abdirahman Meygag

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/iraq

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
341.1 m	263.4 m
Total Requirements for 2019 (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (January – June 2020)
162.1 m	64.4 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.

- WFP Iraq's new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2020-2024 was approved in November at the WFP's Executive Board week in Rome.

- WFP Iraq's Resilience team closed the competitive Call for Proposals, for the implementation of resilience and livelihood activities targeting conflict-affected, high-priority IDP return locations and Southern governorates. In line with the findings of the Zero Hunger strategy, WFP is planning to establish a greater presence in the south, which has been identified as the most vulnerable, chronically poor and affected by the adverse effects of climate change.

- In partnership with the University of Mosul, WFP's Resilience team ran two workshops in Telkaif and Mosul, on the "3PA" Three-Pronged Approach, and Seasonal Livelihoods Planning (SLP). Over 30 people attended each workshop, including community representatives on food, health, education, plus government and humanitarian actors.

- As part of the testing phase of the digitalization of Iraq's social safety net, the Public Distribution System (PDS), WFP has begun developing the "Tamwini" mobile app, to enable citizens to update/access their data and pay for services digitally, without visiting PDS branch offices. Procurement is ongoing for a management consultancy firm to support the preparation of strategy and plan for the post-trial phase. The 4-month consultancy assignment is expected to start in early January 2020.

Monitoring and Assessments

- In November 2019, WFP and its partner on Mobile Money Transfers (MMT) conducted 115 site visits, including 39 Family Food Ration and 3 Immediate Response Ration distribution sites, 23 cash-out points for internally displaced people (IDPs) and Syrian refugees, 25 e-voucher points, 3 shops, 9 Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) through cash, and 13 EMPACT (formerly Tech for Food). 17 beneficiary monitoring interviews were also carried out.

Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP needs an additional USD 64.4 million to ensure that operations can continue without interruption through June 2020.

Donors

Principal donors to the TISCP:

Germany, United States, Government of Iraq, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, Australia.

Other significant donors to the TISCP include:

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