



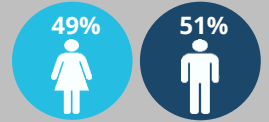
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



# WFP Iraq Country Brief July 2020

## In Numbers



**333,672 people assisted**  
in July 2020\*

**0.12 mt** of in-kind assistance distributed

**USD 3.83 million** distributed through cash-based transfers

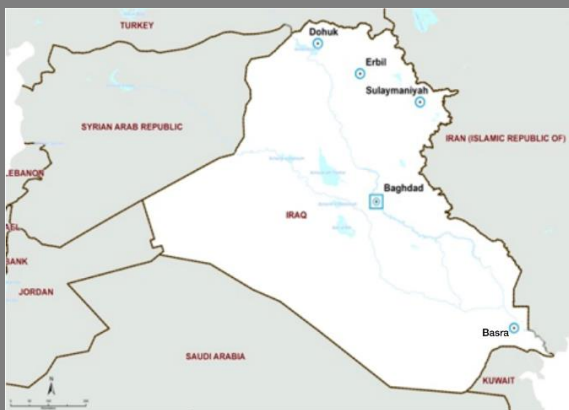
**USD 30.7 million** six months net funding requirements (September 2020 – February 2021)

### 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. The challenges of rebuilding infrastructure, providing basic services, promoting social cohesion, creating jobs, developing skills, and progressing towards gender equality whilst maintaining security have impeded the country's efforts to make progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 2: Zero Hunger.

WFP's Country Strategic Plan (CSP) 2020-2024 in Iraq has an all-encompassing goal of supporting the Government of Iraq to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, shifting WFP's role from implementer to enabler. This is critical in the transitioning from immediate crisis response to greater resilience, and longer-term peace and development. Mainstreaming gender-transformative and nutrition-sensitive programming is also key.

The first case of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 was recorded in Iraq on 24 February. Given the increasing cases reported by the Ministry of Health, and the decision taken by the Iraqi Government to limit gatherings, WFP and its partners are taking additional measures to safeguard the health and wellbeing of people assisted.



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

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

2019 Human Development Index:  
**120 of 188** (lowest)

**1.38 million** IDPs (IOM)  
**244,024** Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

### Operational Update & COVID-19 Response

- In July, WFP delivered cash-based assistance to 265,141 IDPs, 67,865 refugees, and 666 returnees and people from vulnerable communities, through Food for Assets (FFA) and livelihoods creation resilience programmes, reaching 90 percent of the operational plan in nine governorates. This included an additional 35,400 refugees and IDPs added as part of WFP's scale-up to meet increased humanitarian needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ready-to-eat food packages of Immediate Response Rations were again distributed to a few quarantined households. WFP continues to consider appeals from families via helpdesks in camps, to be included in the August cycle of assistance.
- Curfews continue across the country. Limited working hours in government departments and banks, alongside liquidity issues, and some access restrictions for WFP's Financial Service Provider (FSP) agents and transporters of in-kind food continue to cause some delays in WFP's assistance to IDPs and refugees. WFP is continuing to advocate with local authorities and coordination bodies to secure approvals. Commercial flights resumed 23 July.
- There have been some cases of COVID-19 in IDP and refugee camps, but the local authorities reacted quickly and locked down camp sectors or entire camps before relaxing restrictions post-testing of residents, meaning that the cases have remained isolated. WFP has developed a guidance note on responding to quarantine cases in camps.
- The government has facilitated and supported the return of willing families to Sinjar in Ninewa governorate – where communities were severely affected during the conflict with the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Around 6,616 people returned from camps in Duhok, in addition to 4,905 individuals from out-of-camp locations, over the past weeks. WFP is monitoring and assessing the situation to gauge the need for enhanced support in Sinjar.
- The Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) continued to distribute assistance to the IDP camp population over the period January – July. WFP's coordination is ongoing, providing smaller, complementary "top-ups" of assistance accordingly. This has resulted in savings of USD 8.9 million over the seven-month period.

Photo: Livelihoods projects continue, such as this canal rehabilitation initiative with partner Caritas in Ramadi, Anbar, helping participants earn an income and build resilience during the pandemic. WFP/Photo Library

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## Country Strategic Plan (CSP, 1 January 2020–31 December 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>473 m</b>	<b>105 m</b>
Total Requirements for 2020 (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2020 – February 2021)
<b>179 m</b>	<b>30.7 m</b>

### Strategic Result 1: Access to food (SDG Target 2.1)

**Strategic Outcome 1 (SO 1):** Crisis-affected people in Iraq, including IDPs and refugees, are able to meet basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crises throughout the year

**Focus area:** *Crisis Response*

**Activities:**

- Provide unconditional food assistance to IDPs, refugees and other crisis-affected people.

### Strategic Result 4: Sustainable food systems (SDG Target 2.4)

**Strategic Outcome 2 (SO 2):** Targeted communities, including farmers, have enhanced livelihoods and increased resilience to shocks by 2024

**Focus area:** *Resilience building*

**Activities:**

- Provide livelihood support, asset creation and climate adaptation activities, including capacity strengthening, to targeted farmers and communities.

### Strategic Result 5: Capacity strengthening (SDG Target 17.9)

**Strategic Outcome 3 (SO 3):** National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacities and systems for targeting and assisting food-insecure vulnerable people by 2024

**Focus area:** *Resilience Building*

**Activities:**

- Provide institutional capacity strengthening to government officials and partners.
- Provide support to government officials and partners in enhancing information technology for managing PDS modernization and in strengthening the safety net component of the government social protection system.
- To help mitigate against the virus and also potential delays in assistance, WFP is implementing an array of mechanisms in camps including: Mobile Money Transfers (MMT), direct cash, e-vouchers (both with WFP's SCOPECARD and a new cardless trial), and pioneering new "cashless payments" by mobile phone, all of which enable flexibility, based on need. In addition, the contingency stock of in-kind Family Food Rations (FFRs) will be distributed between August–November, to complement cash-based assistance and fill any potential gaps.
- Livelihoods / "Food for Assets" activities continued to resume in rural areas, with WFP and its implementing partners working to take full precautions to protect the health of all people involved. WFP and partners continued preparations to recommence EMPACT ("Empowerment in Action") Digital Skills and English training, via virtual

classrooms online, from August. The programme aims to reach around 2,825 students from refugee, IDP and host communities, in six governorates.

- In response to COVID-19 and the loss of day work and income among many vulnerable groups, WFP continued preparations to implement its new urban livelihoods activities. In Basra, WFP and its partner began selecting participants, in coordination with local authorities. The objective is to make immediate economic support available to people who lost their jobs, by providing work opportunities in peri-urban areas, in Baghdad, Basra, Mosul and Wassit so far.
- WFP is continuing to augment its capacity strengthening work on School Feeding with the Ministry of Education. In July, WFP met the new Minister of Education, and discussed a strong collaboration on the continuation of the School Feeding Programme.
- As part of WFP's joint initiative with the Ministry of Trade (MoT) to digitalize the Public Distribution System of food rations (PDS), the "Tamwini" ("My Food Ration") mobile app launched in Baghdad and Mosul. It will enable families to update and access their information directly, without visiting the PDS branch offices. "Tamwini" will continue to be rolled out with citizens through their participating food agent. Next planned is a large-scale trial in all of Najaf governorate.
- Training was conducted with all cooperating partners (CPs) on using WFP's MoDA (Mobile Operational Data Acquisition) Data Collection Platform, to record complaints and feedback received from people assisted. This is to minimize the time needed to respond to people, and "close the loop", as well as consolidate any complaints/feedback received into one channel.

## Monitoring and Assessments

- In collaboration with FAO, IFAD and World Bank, WFP launched the first bimonthly report "Food Security in Iraq: The Impact of COVID-19." Regular joint reports continue to be published. WFP's latest mobile Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping (mVAM) data revealed that around 5.9 million people (15.4 percent of the total population) are using negative coping strategies to meet their food needs.
- In July, 155 monitoring activities were conducted, 76 of which were remote due to the pandemic: these focused on 90 "cash-out" points for IDPs and Syrian refugees, 31 e-voucher activities, 21 shops, one EMPACT and 12 resilience activities. In addition, 76 monitoring interviews were carried out during the month.

## Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP requires an additional USD 30.7 million to ensure that operations can continue without interruption through February 2021.

## Donors

WFP would like to thank all donors for their contributions including: Belgium, Canada, ECHO, France, Germany, the Government of Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the United States.

*N.b. all assistance-related numbers are provisional estimates and may be revised upwards or downwards after reconciliation.*