

## COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN REVISION

### REVISION

#### [Iraq] country strategic plan, revision [02]

Gender and age marker code: [4<sup>1</sup>]

	Current	Change	Revised
Duration	1 January 2020 –31 December 2024	<i>None</i>	1 January 2020 –31 December 2024
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	1 088 770	611 804	1 700 574
<b>Total cost (USD)</b>	<b>472 549 177</b>	<b>49 311 162</b>	<b>521 860 339</b>
Transfer	376 029 519	45 663 176	421 692 695
Implementation	27 400 057	2 560 996	29 961 054
Direct support costs	40 278 571	- 1 922 611	38 355 959
Subtotal	<b>443 708 147</b>	<b>46 301 561</b>	<b>490 009 708</b>
Indirect support costs (6.5%)	28 841 030	3 009 601	31 850 631

### 1. RATIONALE

1. COVID-19 has resulted in increasing vulnerability and poverty levels of millions of people across the country. While precautionary measures such as lockdowns and mobility restrictions were essential, they led to extensive losses in livelihoods which in turn eroded households' ability to meet basic needs. A significant drop in global oil prices affected the government's revenues and its ability to support social safety net programmes. Poverty has increased by 11.7 percent<sup>2</sup> bringing the national poverty rate to 31.7 percent (2020) compared to 20 percent (2018).<sup>3</sup> Currently 2.3 million Iraqis require food and livelihood assistance, while populations living in camps are among the most affected.<sup>4</sup>
2. In budget revision (BR01), WFP planned a reduction in the beneficiary caseload under strategic outcome (SO1) for the internally displaced persons (IDPs) from 250,000 to 125,000 by the end of 2020 through a targeting exercise which included expected IDPs returns to places of origins. COVID-19 impacted the vulnerability status of the refugee and IDPs population and the targeting exercise was suspended. In line with the Humanitarian Response Plan 2021, those who remain in official camps will continue to receive food assistance in coordination with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration. Currently 225,000 IDPs remain in the camps. However, the caseload is expected to drop by the end of 2021 subject to the government's plans for IDPs returns.
3. Due to the current suspension of IDP camp closures and the refugee targeting exercise, the anticipated reduction in the beneficiary caseload did not occur and WFP Iraq will

<sup>1</sup> The gender and age marker should be reviewed in case of new SO or additional activity.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/iraq/reports/assessment-covid-19-impact-poverty-and-vulnerability-iraq>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/iraq/publication/iraq-economic-monitor--fall-2020>

<sup>4</sup> Based on the Iraq Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (2016), Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (2020) and mVAM 2020.

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maintain the current operational status, including beneficiary figures as of end of 2020. BR02 aims to reflect:

- the planned number of beneficiaries under SO1 increases by 127,000 IDPs in 2021. A total of 472,000 Syrian refugees and IDPs in camps are planned and CBT requirements maintained.
- an increase in beneficiaries under SO2 from 388,404 to a total of 832,174 beneficiaries.
- extend the school feeding programme under SO3 until May 2022

## **2. CHANGES**

### ***Strategic orientation***

4. There are no changes to the strategic orientation of the CSP.

Previous BRs:

5. BR01 (approved by RD in February 2020) included in-kind assistance in the form of family food rations for 250,000 IDPs and 35,000 refugees for three months.

### ***Strategic outcomes***

*Targeting approach and beneficiary analysis:*

6. The number of activity 1 beneficiaries for 2021 targeted through this BR is 225,000 IDPs, 72,000 refugees and 30,000 crisis affected Iraqis. The targeted refugee caseload is expected to drop by 22 percent during February-April based on the results from a re-targeting exercise planned. Maintaining 30,000 beneficiaries in crisis affected populations will allow WFP to respond to immediate emergencies as they occur including anticipated returnees of the Al Hol population.
7. For SO2, without changing the operational and budgetary scope, programmatic changes are as follows:
  - i. Conditionality for the EMPACT programme will change from attendance to merit.<sup>5</sup> This change aims at boosting success rates of participants and increased engagement.
  - ii. Building on the urban COVID-19 response, WFP will continue its livelihood intervention in 2021<sup>6</sup>, aimed to strengthen food-security of urban communities reaching more beneficiaries.
  - iii. The activities will be less capital intensive, with a limited reduction in FFT beneficiaries, and an increase in FFA beneficiaries, reaching a total of 832,174 people under SO2 within the same budget.
  - iv. Existing partnerships and collaborations with the government of Iraq and national academic institutions, as well as FAO and United Nations agencies, will be leveraged for expansion of activities to southern governorates with high rates of food insecurity.

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<sup>5</sup> WFP Iraq is currently finalising the strategy that would outline in detail the new merit-based conditionality.

<sup>6</sup> The Urban Livelihoods programme will focus on Cash for Work, targeting food insecure urban and peri-urban communities impacted by COVID-19 and mitigation measures.

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8. Under SO3, the implementation of WFP's school feeding programme was suspended during 2020 due COVID-19 restrictions, which resulted in closure of academic institutions. As schools re-opened by end of November, WFP will continue to target 255,000 children in 871 schools across 12 vulnerable districts in Iraq until the end of the academic year, extended to May 2022. The programme has been re-designed to include long-shelf life products and increased hygiene awareness for children and school staff.

*Transfer modalities:*

9. The primary modality of assistance will remain cash based transfers<sup>7</sup> for all beneficiaries. However, due to civil unrest and the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP faced severe access, mobility, liquidity, and other operational constraints for CBT distributions in 2020. Disruptions may continue in 2021, therefore under activity 1 WFP will maintain in-kind assistance alongside CBT and continue family food rations for 255,000 IDPs, as well as a contingency of 15,000 immediate response rations (IRRs) for sudden onset emergencies. For SO2, there are slight adjustments to the CBT and capacity strengthening modalities.

*Partnership:*

10. WFP will continue collaboration with national institutions, United Nations agencies, NGOs and other partners. WFP will continue to work with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement through topping-up assistance and distribution of food parcels. Activities will be implemented through Field Level Agreements with relevant NGOs. Cash will be distributed by contracted Financial Service Providers and by NGOs where applicable.

*Country office capacity:*

11. This BR includes staff adjustments. Staffing would be augmented with further logistics expertise to support in-kind operations, should WFP be unable to provide assistance using CBT modalities.

*Supply chain challenges:*

12. Following a local market assessment, supply chain has established a Food Vendor Roster to enable WFP to procure food in a short lead time. The procurement of IRRs was carried out successfully. A full-scale market assessment is planned in 2021 to establish new logistics contracts for the augmentation of current storage and transportation services.
13. Food commodities will be delivered to WFP warehouses in Erbil as per the Delivery at Place Incoterms. WFP will deliver in-kind assistance monthly directly to cooperating partners warehouses or directly to the distribution sites.

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<sup>7</sup> WFP Iraq has developed a detailed strategy and a Standard Operation Procedure for the use of cash-based transfers. WFP utilises multiple CBT delivery mechanism, all of them guided by corporate CBT manuals and guidance, including the new assurance guidance.

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*M&E:*

14. Baseline and follow-up surveys will be conducted to measure progress of strategic outcome indicators. Data collection will be performed by WFP field monitoring staff and/or outsourced depending on context and needs to ensure sufficient monitoring coverage.
15. Remote monitoring through phone has been adopted as the primary alternative in a conflict setting or epidemic-affected areas. WFP field monitors and third-party enumerators have been trained in the use of tools designed for remote monitoring.
16. COVID-19 has further exacerbated gender inequalities and affected the lives of women, men, girls, and boys. Losses of livelihoods and prolonged lockdowns have exacerbated gender based violence and negative coping mechanisms such as child labour. In response, WFP initiated gender analyses highlighting inequalities to be addressed when designing and implementing interventions. Through the FFA, FFT and Emergency Cash for Work programmes, WFP supported communities and households most affected by the pandemic's impacts. WFP changed modalities of FFT to online learning and enhanced women's access to technology. WFP also implemented an intervention to reduce school dropout rates for adolescent girls, through incentives to increase the time dedicated to teaching girls at home. WFP targeted the most vulnerable groups based on community consultations, ensuring smart and functioning complaints and feedback mechanisms. Mitigation actions included awareness raising, trainings, and women empowerment through livelihoods.

*Proposed transition/handover strategy:*

17. WFP, in collaboration with UNICEF and ILO, will begin implementing a four-year EU-funded programme to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Iraq to respond more effectively to different crises and accelerate the reform of social protection systems by filling the gaps in policies, services, management information systems and capacities.

*Risk Management:*

18. WFP, in line with the corporate risk management guidance, will continue to regularly undertake environment scanning and risk mapping of existing and emerging risks and update the risk register accordingly, outlining all potential risks.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> WFP Iraq will outline risks in the various categories focusing on Strategic, Fiduciary, Financial and Operational risks as guided by the WFP Corporate Risk Management guidelines.

## Beneficiary analysis

<b>TABLE 1: DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY STRATEGIC OUTCOME, ACTIVITY &amp; MODALITY</b>							
Strategic Outcome	Activity	Period	Women	Men	Girls	Boys	Total
			(18+ years)	(18+ years)	(0-18 years)	(0-18 years)	
1	1 (GFD)	Current	96 255	93 840	73 830	81 075	345 000
		Increase/ decrease	35 433	34 544	27 178	29 845	127 000
		Revised	131 688	128 384	101 008	110 920	472 000
2	2 (FFA)	Current	97 160	94 725	74 526	81 839	348 250
		Increase/ decrease	109 908	107 146	84 299	92 571	393 924
		Revised	207 068	201 871	158 825	174 410	742 174
	2 (FFT)	Current	26 650	25 982	20 441	22 447	95 520
		Increase/ decrease	(1 540)	(1 502)	(1 181)	(1 297)	(5 520)
		Revised	25 110	24 480	19 260	21 150	90 000
3	3 (SF)	Current	-	-	147 900	152 100	300 000
		Increase/ <b>decrease</b>	-	-	49 300	50 700	100 000
		Revised	-	-	197 200	202 800	400 000
<b>TOTAL</b> <i>(without overlap)</i>		Current	303 767	296 145	232 997	255 861	1 088 770
		Increase/ decrease	59 093	57 611	242 526	252 574	611 804
		Revised	362 860	353 756	475 523	508 435	1 700 574

## Transfers

Strategic outcome	1			
Activity	1			
Beneficiary type	IDPs	Refugees	Other Affected People	Other Affected People
Modality	Food and CBT	Food and CBT	Food	CBT
Cereals	333	366	0	366
Pulses	66	99	0	99
Oil	30	30	0	30
Salt	5	5	0	5
Sugar	33	33	0	33
Canned chicken	0	0	80	0
Canned beans	0	0	80	0
Canned chickpeas	0	0	80	0
Dates	0	0	80	0
Biscuit	0	0	107	0
total kcal/day (for food and CBT)	1820	2046	1242	2046
% kcal from protein	10%	11%	15%	11%
CBT USD/person/day	0.47	0.62	Na	1.24
Feeding days per year	365	365	36	180

Food type / cash-based transfer	Current Budget		Increase		Revised Budget	
	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)	Total (mt)	Total (USD)
Cereals	9 634	3 496 649	2 602	1 216 910	12 236	4 713 558
Pulses	2 093	1 484 243	667	511 249	2 760	1 995 492
Oil and Fats	851	835 616	230	213 022	1 080	1 048 638
Mixed and blended foods	19	6 548	72	108 338	91	114 886
Other	1 106	448 461	399	313 228	1 505	761 689
<b>TOTAL (food)</b>	<b>13 702</b>	<b>6 271 518</b>	<b>3 970</b>	<b>2 362 746</b>	<b>17 672</b>	<b>8 634 264</b>
Cash-Based Transfers (USD)		197 353 486		35 098 552		232 452 037
<b>TOTAL (food and CBT value – USD)</b>	<b>13 702</b>	<b>203 625 003</b>	<b>3 970</b>	<b>37 461 298</b>	<b>17 672</b>	<b>241 086 302</b>

## 19. COST BREAKDOWN

The budgetary changes are primarily in SO1 in order to maintain beneficiary caseload as planned reduction could not materialise resulting in an increase in budgeted figures; SO2 realignment of capacity strengthening expenses and CBT transfer cost; and SO3 an extension of the implementation period of the school feeding up to May 2022 in response to school closures.

<b>COST BREAKDOWN OF THE REVISION ONLY (USD)</b>				
	<b>Strategic Result 1 / SDG Target 2.1</b>	<b>Strategic Result 4 / SDG Target 2.4</b>	<b>Strategic Result 5 / SDG Target 17.9</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Strategic outcome</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	
<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Crisis Response</b>	<b>Resilience Building</b>	<b>Resilience Building</b>	
<b>Transfer</b>	22 310 377	78 886	23 273 912	<b>45 663 176</b>
<b>Implementation</b>	1 691 227	200 000	669 770	<b>2 560 996</b>
<b>Direct support costs</b>				<b>- 1 922 611</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>				<b>46 301 561</b>
<b>Indirect support costs</b>				<b>3 009 601</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>49 311 162</b>

<b>OVERALL CSP COST BREAKDOWN, FOLLOWING THE REVISION (USD)</b>				
	<b>Strategic Result 1 / SDG Target 2.1</b>	<b>Strategic Result 4 / SDG Target 2.4</b>	<b>Strategic Result 5 / SDG Target 17.9</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Strategic outcome</b>	<b>01</b>	<b>02</b>	<b>03</b>	
<b>Focus Area</b>	<b>Crisis Response</b>	<b>Resilience Building</b>	<b>Resilience Building</b>	
<b>Transfer</b>	168 214 772	166 407 451	87 070 472	<b>421 692 695</b>
<b>Implementation</b>	8 837 512	12 700 356	8 423 186	<b>29 961 054</b>
<b>Direct support costs</b>	13 291 929	17 901 861	7 162 169	<b>38 355 959</b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	190 344 212	197 009 669	102 655 827	<b>490 009 708</b>
<b>Indirect support costs</b>	12 372 374	12 805 628	6 672 629	<b>31 850 631</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>202 716 586</b>	<b>209 815 297</b>	<b>109 328 456</b>	<b>521 860 339</b>

## Annex: Line of Sight

### IRAQ (CSP 2020 – 2024)

SR 1 – Access to food (SDG Target 2.1)	SR4 – Sustainable food systems (SDG Target 2.4)	SR 5 – Capacity strengthening (SDG Target 17.9)
<b>CRISIS RESPONSE</b>	<b>RESILIENCE BUILDING</b>	<b>RESILIENCE BUILDING</b>
<p><b>OUTCOME 1:</b> 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</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME 2:</b> Targeted communities, including farmers, have enhanced livelihoods and increased resilience to shocks by 2024</p>	<p><b>OUTCOME 3:</b> National and subnational institutions have strengthened capacities and systems for targeting and assisting food-insecure vulnerable people by 2024</p>
<b>BUDGET SO 1: \$ 202,716,886</b>	<b>BUDGET SO 2: \$ 209,815,297</b>	<b>BUDGET SO 3: \$ 109,328,456</b>
<p><b>OUTPUTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vulnerable internally displaced persons and other crisis-affected people (tier 1) receive nutritious food or cash-based transfers that meet their basic food and nutrition needs (A; linked to Activity 1).</li> <li>Vulnerable refugees (tier 1) receive nutritious food or cash-based transfers that meet their basic food and nutrition needs (A; linked to Activity 1).</li> </ul>	<p><b>OUTPUTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted communities benefit from new or rehabilitated assets that improve their agriculture productivity, adaptation to climate change (SDG 13) and social cohesion (SDG 16) (D).</li> <li>Targeted farmers (tier 2) benefit from strengthened technical capacities and marketable skills that increase agricultural income and improve livelihoods (C).</li> <li>Targeted farmers and food-insecure people, especially women and young people, (tier 1) receive conditional assistance in exchange for participating in livelihoods and asset creation activities that enhance their self-reliance (A).</li> </ul>	<p><b>OUTPUTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vulnerable people (tier 3) benefit from improvements to Public Distribution System (PDS) and safety nets that result in improved food security and nutrition (C).</li> <li>Vulnerable people (tier 3) benefit from better information systems, capacity and coordination mechanisms for food security, nutrition and agriculture interventions (C).</li> <li>School-age children (tier 1) benefit from increased capacities of the national government to manage a national school feeding programme that promotes access to nutritious food, equitable education and equal opportunity (SDG 4) (A,C).</li> <li>Vulnerable people and communities (tier 3) benefit from appropriate social and behaviour change communication (SBCC) and nutrition awareness and advocacy that seek to address poor nutrition (C).</li> <li>Vulnerable people (tier 3) benefit from improved emergency preparedness and early warning systems (C).</li> </ul>
<p>ACTIVITY 1: Provide unconditional food assistance to IDPs, refugees and other crisis-affected people (activity category 1, modality: food and CBT)</p>	<p>ACTIVITY 2: Provide livelihood support, asset creation and climate adaptation activities, including capacity strengthening, to targeted farmers and communities (activity category 2, modality: food and CBT)</p>	<p>ACTIVITY 3: Provide institutional capacity strengthening to government officials and partners (activity category 9, modality: food/CBT and capacity strengthening)</p>
		<p>ACTIVITY 4: 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. (activity category 9, modality: capacity strengthening)</p>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET: \$ 521,860,339</b>		