



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



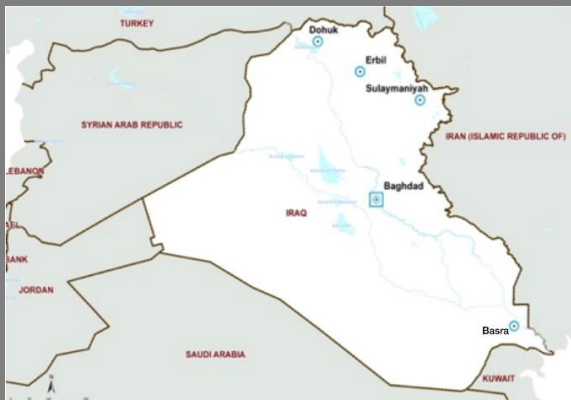
WFP Iraq Country Brief July 2021

Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict continues to aggravate the poverty rate and threaten livelihoods. Alongside the return of families from camps, that continue since 2018, the situation and needs of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees remain precarious. WFP Iraq's assistance focuses on saving lives, changing lives: supporting the Government of Iraq's social protection work towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: 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 SDGs.

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 implementing to enabling and capacity strengthening. This is critical in transitioning from crisis response to resilience building, and for 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 in February 2020. Given the ongoing cases reported by the Ministry of Health, WFP and its partners continue to take additional measures to safeguard the health and wellbeing of people assisted. Supporting vulnerable families is even more critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has negatively impacted upon people's food security.



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

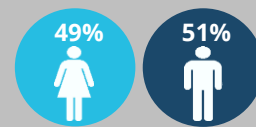
Poverty rate: **31.7%** (Ministry of Planning, World Bank, UNICEF, 2020)

2020 Human Development Index:
123 of 189 (lowest)

1.2 million IDPs (IOM)
247,044 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

In Numbers

270,136 people assisted
in July 2021



US\$4.22 million distributed through
cash-based transfers

US\$13.1 million** six months net funding
requirements (August 2021 – January 2022)

Operational Updates

- In July, WFP provided cash and food assistance to 186,267 IDPs and 68,804 refugees, and 6,156 returnees and people from vulnerable communities through resilience building initiatives.
- The number of COVID-19 cases continued to increase in July reaching almost 13,000 cases daily at the end of the month, before starting to decrease. A partial curfew in the country remains in place between 23:00 and 05:00 daily. WFP provided ready-to eat food packages (immediate response rations) to two IDPs in quarantine in Ameriyat Al Fallujah (AAF) camp in Anbar governorate.
- Following the fire in Ashty IDP camp in Sulaymaniyah, which affected four households, WFP quickly provided ready-to-eat immediate response rations to the families. The cause of the fire was reportedly an electrical fault.
- Following assessments indicating that many displaced families have been unable to develop self-reliance after relocating from camps, WFP began the first phase of its support to IDPs in out-of-camp settings, under its crisis response work. WFP and partners began the interventions in Baghdad and are expanding to Anbar, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din over the coming 13 months. This initiative aims to improve the lives of 50,000 of the most vulnerable Iraqis residing outside formal camp settings since October 2020 whose vulnerabilities including food insecurity have increased.
- WFP's out-of-camp assistance package aims to address the food security needs of the most vulnerable, so that no one is left behind, and those in need are supported during this critical time. An integrated, holistic approach sees WFP simultaneously building resilience of IDPs and vulnerable host community households through livelihoods activities, addressing medium-term food needs; and supporting the integration of IDP households into the government social protection programmes, and institutional capacity strengthening in particular of the Public Distribution System for food rations (PDS) at sub-national level. Prior to the intervention, WFP engaged with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) with whom WFP reached an understanding to undertake response activities in collaboration with local MoMD authorities.

Photo Caption: In July, WFP launched its out-of-camp assistance to displaced families affected by camp closures, beginning with food insecure households in Baghdad governorate. Families redeem cash assistance provided through mobile money transfer, through local agents.

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions 2020-2024 (in USD)
522 m	210 m
Total Requirements for 2021	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2021 – January 2022)
135 m	13.1** m

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.

- WFP continued implementation of its Urban Livelihoods programme in Ninewa, Basra, Thi-Qar and Maysan, helping vulnerable households to start or develop their businesses in order to help them earn an income and support their food security. In parallel, Rural Livelihoods (Food for Assets) activities continue in Anbar, Salah al-Din, Ninewa (Sinjar, Ba'aj & Hamdaniya) and Thi-Qar. In collaboration with NGO partners and the local communities, WFP is aiming to reach over 130,000 people in 2021 through livelihoods programmes and training activities such as water management, with 6,156 people supported in July. The rural projects also contribute towards building the resilience of smallholder farmer communities in conflict-affected areas, and to adapt to climate change.
- The first cohort of EMPACT 'Empowerment in Action' students (in expert ICT, and ICT Literacy) have completed their studies in

all locations. The second cohort of students started in July as well. Two successful training sessions took place with all teaching staff.

- The second round of stipends to girls' families under the Joint WFP-UNICEF Girls Education project supporting the transition of adolescent girls to grade 7 was completed in July. Nearly 2,500 students received an amount of IQD 115,000 (around USD 80) to support their and their families' daily needs. The transfers aim to contribute meeting the financial needs of the families thus reducing school drop-out. Meanwhile, a Concept Note for a National School Feeding Policy has been drafted, with a vision of universal school feeding enshrined in law.
- In July, WFP's Social Protection team held a joint workshop with UNICEF, ILO and the Ministry of Planning (MoP) at the Central Statistics Office (CSO), to finalize Iraq Household Socio-economic Survey (IHSES) questionnaire, where final revisions were confirmed including poverty, multi-dimensional aspects of poverty, food security and modules of social protection. The UN partners agreed with MoP to establish a coordination committee chaired by CSO, including representatives from the UN partners and the World Bank. Meanwhile, the Tamwini ('My Food Ration') smartphone app continues to roll out to families across Najaf governorate.
- WFP's Conflict Sensitive specialist continues work on an urban conflict analysis and market assessment in Basra, with data collection ongoing with partners. WFP has contracted an external research organisation to help gather more in-depth perceptions and understanding on how WFP's resilience-building work may have had wider positive contributions towards social cohesion.

Monitoring and Assessments

- The below average rainfall across Iraq continues to pose a threat to agricultural livelihoods and food security in the country. Water scarcity is driven both by low rains as well as reduced inflows of water as a result of dam projects in neighbouring countries affecting essential water sources for agriculture. WFP and Food Security Cluster partners continue to monitor water scarcity and the potential impact of the drought on agriculture activities. According to the FAO-Global Information and Early Warning System up to a 38 percent decrease in cereal production across the country is expected this year, while an estimated 50 percent reduction in wheat is foreseen in the Kurdistan Region (with over a 70 percent reduction in Ninewa governorate) and almost complete failure of the barley crop nationally. Should current conditions persist, and no further rainfall materializes, irrigated farmlands are expected to experience further deterioration.

Funding and Pipeline update

WFP requires USD 13.1** million to ensure operations continue without interruption through January 2022.

Donors

WFP would like to thank all partners for their contributions including Belgium, Canada, European Union, France, Germany, the Government of Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Luxembourg, Switzerland, United Nations Agencies, United States, the World Bank, Private Donors and Individual Donors through ShareTheMeal.

**WFP will initiate a Budget Revision (BR) in October 2021 to factor in continuing IDP needs expected in 2022. The funding needs from August 2020 – January 2022 will be USD 24.9 million following the BR.