



World Food Programme

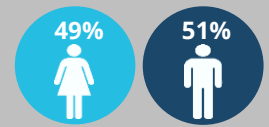
SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief November 2021

In Numbers

271,988 people assisted
in November 2021



US\$ 4.1 million distributed through
cash-based transfers

US\$25.3 million six months net funding
requirements (December 2021– May 2022)**

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, opportunities for youth and working 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: **40.2 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)
252,591 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP provided cash and food assistance to 187,003 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), 68,749 refugees, and 16,236 people from vulnerable communities through resilience building initiatives. The number of new daily COVID-19 cases rose from 1,046 at the beginning of November to 1,355 daily cases by the end of the month.
- The Government of Iraq announced the Amiriyat al-Falluja (AAF) camps in Anbar as informal settlements and assured WFP and partners that no premature relocations have taken or will take place for the residents. Around 6 families departed from the camps, while the remaining 466 households (approximately 2,155 people) remained in the informal settlements. They have an option of receiving a one-time government grant of IQD 1 million (about USD 676) upon their return to their areas of origin.
- WFP's current resilience-building activities in Anbar, Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Thi-Qar are nearing completion. These activities help host communities, returnees after displacement, including smallholder farmers to improve their livelihoods and adapt their farming habits to climate change. In the southern governorate of Thi-Qar in particular, WFP's work with its partners is helping ensure water access to combat climate change and its associated impacts. WFP is currently prioritising nearly 123,000 vulnerable people with asset creation, rehabilitation and capacity strengthening activities, such as rehabilitation of critical irrigation infrastructure including irrigation canals and water pumps, in addition to establishment of greenhouses and home gardens for smallholder farmers. Recently, WFP added Basra governorate to its climate change-focused activities and will be launching them with partners in the near future.
- Together with the Ministry of Education (MoE), WFP is proceeding with the scale up of National School Feeding Programme to reach 449,000 children with school meals in the 2021/2022 academic year. As part of the handover process for the school feeding programme from WFP to the government, MoE will also take responsibility for distributing 40 percent of the school meals. WFP continues to provide technical advisory and procurement support to help strengthen the government's capacity.

Photo Caption: WFP Iraq Representative Ally-Raza Qureshi meets with participants in Rural Livelihoods activities in Thi-Qar governorate, southern Iraq. There is an urgent need for adaptive interventions to combat the effects of climate change, which are contributing to deteriorating agriculture and food security.

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

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)		Allocated Contributions 2020-2024 (in US\$)
522 m		230 m
Total Requirements for 2021 (in US\$)	Total Requirements for 2022 (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (December 2021 – May 2022)**
135 m	77.3 m	25.3 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.

- (cont'd from page 1) concluded the community projects after providing vocational training to nearly 1,000 unemployed people, helping ensure they have the skills necessary to pursue sustainable livelihoods. WFP is conducting assessments on the possibility of continuing or expanding these Urban Livelihoods initiatives, to benefit more vulnerable households.

- In November, WFP's EMPACT – 'Empowerment in Action!' – programme concluded training for its second cohort for 2021, providing more youth with essential digital and English language skills that enable them to create work opportunities for themselves, online. WFP and partners also organised and held two careers' fairs, in Anbar and Baghdad, over the month of November for EMPACT graduates, linking them with potential employers. WFP and leading creative innovation platform *javoto* organised a graphic design competition for the EMPACT graduates. The winners will be championed by WFP upon

completion of the competition in mid-December. In addition, 24 EMPACT graduates were selected to attend special training seminars hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, highlighting the interest in this innovative programme and the immediate impact it has on the youth participants.

- WFP's collaboration with the Ministry of Trade on updating and digitalising the country's Public Distribution System for food rations (PDS) is moving forward effectively. A landmark three-day "ePDS" workshop was held in Erbil under WFP's capacity strengthening efforts with Government of Iraq and Kurdistan Region Government staff, to further enable the government's participation in the project in a meaningful way. The ongoing testing of the "Tamwini" smartphone app in its beta form for android devices is enabling WFP to work out any glitches ahead of the official launch of the Tamwini expansion across the country.
- WFP's social protection team worked together with the World Bank to move forward with the "Single Registry" initiative that further builds on the success achieved by the Public Distribution System (PDS). The goal is to establish a single common database of families eligible for social welfare support. The initiative includes improving the prioritisation methodology of the PDS and will consolidate national citizen databases for the Government of Iraq. Starting next month, WFP is planning a series of consultation workshops with relevant stakeholders to broaden their participation in building the Single Registry.

Monitoring and Assessments

- In November, WFP conducted 167 monitoring visits, including 81 cash-out points for IDPs and Syrian refugees, 39 livelihood and resilience sites, 14 EMPACT locations, 25 e-voucher points and 8 shops in camps. In addition, 72 monitoring interviews were carried out with people assisted.
- Under WFP's resilience-building initiatives, more than 74 percent of WFP's cash for work participants indicated that participating in the activity enabled them to access goods and services that they could not have obtained previously, thanks to the entitlements they received from partaking in the programme.
- The latest monitoring results showed that WFP's cash for work activities reduced the percentage of families suffering from food insecurity by 15 percent.

Funding and Pipeline update

WFP requires an additional USD 25.3 million to ensure operations continue without interruption through May 2022. Due to ongoing humanitarian crises and the limited funds available to WFP Iraq, a pipeline break in WFP's monthly food assistance for vulnerable families is foreseen for February 2022.

Donors

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

**WFP's Budget Revision (BR) is ongoing to reflect the current situation and factor in the continuing IDP needs expected in 2022.