



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief July 2022

Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict and impact of climate change continue to affect the lives of people. There are currently 1.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 4.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Insecurity, lack of livelihoods, and destroyed or damaged housing hamper people's ability to return home. 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. Iraq's progress on the SDGs has been hindered by the challenges of rebuilding infrastructure in areas affected by conflict with ISIL, economic shocks caused by COVID-19, weak institutions and governance, climate change, delayed implementation of reforms and inadequate opportunities for youth.

WFP Iraq is currently shifting its role from emergency response to resilience building and long-term sustainable development. This paradigm shift is critical as Iraq is currently experiencing adverse effects of climate change (5th most affected country globally) especially in southern Iraq, which is reflected in reduced rainfall and decreased water levels in the country's two rivers (Tigris and Euphrates) resulting in increased salinity that, in turn, heavily affects agriculture.



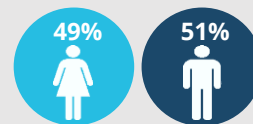
Population: **41.2 million**
(UNFPA 2021)

2020 Human Development Index: **123**
out of 189 (lowest)

Poverty rate: 24.8% (Ministry of
Planning, World Bank, 2021)

1.2 million IDPs (IOM)
260,686 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

In Numbers



256,176 people assisted

in July 2022

US\$3.2 m cash-based transfers made

US\$44.2 m six months (August 2022-January 2023) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- In July, WFP provided cash and food assistance to 184,091 internally displaced persons (IDPs), 68,725 refugees, and 3,360 people from vulnerable communities through resilience building initiatives.
- In early July 2022, the Ambassador of Japan in Iraq visited WFP's resilience projects in Anbar, funded by Japan. The visit provided an opportunity for Japan to receive a firsthand account of the impact of the projects which rehabilitated 24 pumping and sewage drainage stations. The stations continue to support 37,500 hectares of land enabling communities to grow and harvest crops.
- In July, WFP handed over mechanized farming equipment (tractors) to the Directorate of Ninewa to support small holder farmers in the governorate and enhance the agricultural sector in Ninewa. The Directorate of Ninewa oversees Al-Hamdaniya, Al-Ba'aj, Tal-Afar and Sinjar areas where the majority of the farmers are vulnerable with limited financial capacity. With the availability of the tractors (free of charge), the smallholder farmers will be empowered to revitalize their lands to generate income and support their livelihoods and families.
- WFP is preparing for the implementation of the School Feeding programme (SFP) with the Ministry of Education for the new academic year 2022/2023, that is expected to start in September.
- Data collection under the WFP retargeting exercise across its entire beneficiary base continued in the month of July. The exercise seeks to ensure that the most vulnerable families who are unable to survive without assistance continue to receive support to meet their needs. Results will be verified and issued once the targeting exercise is concluded.
- In July, the conflict sensitivity team conducted a mission to Thi-qar, Basra and Muthana to assess the social cohesion component of the resilience programme. This mission took place to ensure WFP resilience activities are conducted in conflict-sensitive manner.

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Photo Caption: WFP Head of Basra Office participated in planting the mangrove trees in Khor al-Zubair for celebration of the International Day for the Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems.
WFP/Ali AlKinani

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
601 m	266 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2022 – January 2023)
141.2 m	44.2 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.
- Under the reform of Iraq's Public Distribution System (PDS), WFP continues to assist the government to print smart cards as part of an overall digitalization approach. As of July 2022, 34,000 digital PDS smartcards were printed for citizens at the Sadr city branch in Baghdad. WFP is also working on launching PDS digitalization in Najaf and Duhok governorates. Furthermore, WFP in collaboration with Ministry of Trade is in the process of developing applications and innovative ways for electronic beneficiaries' identification and entitlements' transfer management systems.
- WFP together with UNICEF and ILO completed consultations with federal government leaders on policy making and the development of a strategy to create a single registry. The consultation sessions took place in Baghdad with representatives from relevant ministries (MOP, MOLSA, MOI, MOE, and MOH) and UN agencies.

Following the workshop, a single registry strategy is being developed for the Federal and Kurdistan Regional Governments. Following the finalization of the strategy, WFP with UNICEF and ILO will organize two validation workshops under the Technical Committee umbrella to get both governments' enforcement of the single registry strategy.

- In celebration of the international Day of Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems, WFP Iraq planted 200 mangrove trees at Khor al-Zubair in Basra. Mangroves are important for restoring coastal areas ecosystem and building resilience of coastal community. WFP is supporting Basra governorate to cover 100 square kilometres of coastal area with mangrove trees.
- As part of WFP's EMPACT programme, which supports youth and women with key digital skills and English language education, providing them with the necessary skills to compete for work and entrepreneurship opportunities, WFP is finalizing several agreements with universities and vocational training centers to start the implementation of EMPACT 2022 program in October.

Monitoring

- In July, WFP conducted 79 monitoring visits, including 53 cash-out points for IDPs and Syrian refugees, 8 livelihood and resilience sites, 10 e-voucher points and 8 shops. In addition, 12 monitoring interviews were carried out with people assisted.

Challenges

The Net Funding Requirement from August 2022- January 2023 is USD 44.2 million. Unless additional funding is received in time, WFP Iraq will face shortage of resources in October 2022.

Donors

WFP thanks all partners for their direct and multilateral contributions including Canada, Denmark, European Union, Germany, Government of Iraq, Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, UN Agencies, United States, the World Bank, PepsiCo Foundation, and Individual Donors through #ShareTheMeal.