



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Iraq Country Brief August 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 (5<sup>th</sup> 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) which results in increased salinity that, in turn, heavily affects agriculture.



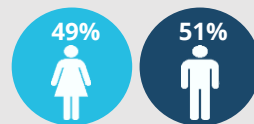
Population: **41.2 million**  
(UNFPA 2021)

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



**248,474 people assisted**

in August 2022

**US\$ 3.3** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 42 m** six months (September-February 2022) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- In August, WFP provided cash and food assistance to 180,949 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 67,525 refugees.
- Under its resilience building portfolio, WFP continues to work with government and non-governmental partners as well as the private sector to design and implement the next round of resilience and livelihood activities in the most vulnerable areas. Special focus is on youth empowerment, supporting smallholder farmers, climate change adaptation and policy-level reforms. In addition to that, WFP is also launching the second round of its vocational skills training and will rehabilitate the vocational training centres, working with the financing institutions, and providing in-kind support.
- Progress is ongoing on WFP's EMPACT (Empowerment in Action) projects. To date, WFP has partnered with public universities and business incubators to provide around 1,600 unemployed youth with the skills and business knowledge to help them advance in the workforce.
- Under the National School Feeding Programme, WFP held coordination meetings with Ministry of Education (MOE) as part of preparations for the academic year 2022/2023. From 13-19 August 2022, WFP along with a delegation of Higher Committee of School Feeding at MOE visited Armenia to exchange expertise and lessons between the two counterparts.
- in an effort to maximize the assistance with the current resourcing level, WFP is implementing a targeting exercise to ensure delivery of life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable people that are unable to provide for themselves and their families. The data gathering process is concluded and verification is in process with an expected launch date of the updated figures in mid-September.
- WFP will establish a Project Management Unit at Public Distribution System (PDS) headquarters to support the project implementation with Ministry of Trade. This will improve the enrollment process to the PDS and ensure streamlined activity delivery.

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**Photo Caption:** WFP Regional Director, Country Director and Deputy Country Director meet the President of Iraq to highlight the importance of climate action in the country.  
WFP

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
<b>600.8M</b>	<b>266M</b>
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Sept 2022 – Feb 2023)
<b>141.2M</b>	<b>41.1M</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.
- Together with UNICEF, ILO, and relevant stakeholders, WFP Social Protection team conducted the 3<sup>rd</sup> steering committee meeting at Ministry of Planning (MOP). Participants provided updates and amendments to the current workplan, which entails four main outcomes on: evidence generation, improving access to services, social security and shock responsiveness, and digitalization of social protection schemes. In addition, challenges facing the implementation of the Social Protection Reform project were also discussed, focusing on ways to improve the delivery and coverage of social protection measures to women and children.

- In August, WFP MENA Regional Director, Ms. Corinne Fleischer visited Iraq and met with a number of senior officials, including the President of Iraq, in addition to members of the donor community. Ms. Fleischer's visit highlighted WFP's commitment to helping the country and focus on the devastating impact of climate change on Iraq and its people and called for urgent action to mitigate these effects; a message echoed by his excellency, Mr. Barham Salih, the President of Iraq.

## Monitoring

- In August, WFP Conducted 56 monitoring visits, including 41 cash-out points for IDPs and Syrian refugees, 8 livelihood and resilience sites, 3 e-voucher points, and 4 shops. In addition, 11 monitoring interviews were carried out with people assisted. The monitoring findings revealed several positive outputs: for example, of the livelihood participants expanded her business in the cakes and sweets industry and managed to market her products through social media.
- WFP is currently gathering data on its 2021 EMPACT (Empowerment in Action) graduates, in addition to women and youths who received skills training via WFP's Urban Livelihoods initiatives.

## Challenges

- Funding shortfalls remain the largest challenge to WFP Iraq's activities in 2022 as the programme is only funded up to 37 percent of the total required. WFP is currently conducting targeting exercises to streamline the delivery of assistance ensuring that our assistance reaches those who are most vulnerable. In addition to that, WFP foresees shortfalls in our assistance to IDPs and refugees (Strategic Outcome 1) and the School Feeding programme (Strategic Outcome 3).

## Exploring New Avenues

WFP is looking at transferring the beneficiaries who will no longer be receiving assistance under SO1 to our resilience building and livelihood activities. This is to ensure that those who return to their areas are able to make a living for themselves and their families and are able to resume their lives.

## 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.