



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Iraq Country Brief December 2022



### Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict, as well as the impact of climate change, continue to affect the lives of people. There are currently 1.17 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 2.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Insecurity, lack of livelihoods, and destroyed or damaged housing hampers people's abilities to return home. WFP Iraq's assistance focuses on saving lives, changing lives and supporting the Government of Iraq with social protection reform, youth empowerment, and combatting climate change towards achieving 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, 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 (fifth 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.



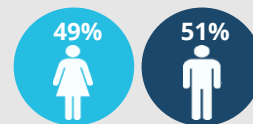
Population: **42.2 million**  
(UNFPA 2021)

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

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

**1.17 million** IDPs (IOM)  
**260,686** Syrian refugees in Iraq

### In Numbers



**174,047 people assisted**

in December 2022

**US\$ 769,638** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 22.7 m** six months (January-June 2023) net  
funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- In December, WFP distributed in-kind family food rations (FFR) to around 135,000 IDPs in Ninewa and Kurdistan region. In addition, WFP distributed around US\$ 746,000 612,000 in cash-based transfers (CBT) to close to 39,000 37,000 refugees in Kurdistan region. Furthermore, following the targeting exercise, WFP distributed CBT to over 2,700 refugee and IDP families who had requested assistance through the complaint and feedback mechanism (CFM).
- Under its resilience portfolio, WFP launched Josour, an initiative to help Iraq's youth gain language, entrepreneurship, & digital skills to access the job market. WFP is working with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MHESR) to nationalize the programme through local universities.
- The Empowerment in Action (EMPACT) programme is ongoing in the northern Governorate of Sulaymaniyah. WFP concluded an outreach phase in Erbil and Duhok to start the EMPACT programme upon completing the necessary logistical requirements.
- In the Kurdistan and southern governorates of Iraq, WFP finalized feasibility studies for the implementation of carbon credit financed forest, marshland, and mangrove restoration projects. It worked with the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen the automatic weather station. WFP obtained approval to install greenhouses in refugee camp and non-camp settings in Duhok. WFP also concluded an agreement with the Basra Governor to construct a greenhouses and hydroponics system to promote the uptake of climate-smart agriculture techniques for livelihoods promotion.
- Under the social protection portfolio, the registration process of the public distribution system (PDS) in Najaf governorate is ongoing. During December, around 370,000 e-PDS cards were distributed, with 190,000 already activated. In addition, 28,570 cards were registered and activated. The printing process is planned to be completed by mid-January 2023.

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**Photo Caption:** WFP staff helping an elderly lady shop during a field visit to Ja'da 1 camp in Mosul.

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (in US\$)	Percentage Funded
<b>601 m</b>	<b>307 m</b>	<b>39%</b>
2023 Requirements (in US\$)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January 2023 – June 2023)
<b>80 m</b>		<b>22.7 m</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.

- As part of the design phase of the single registry, WFP participated in two policy consultation workshops led by experts in Development Pathways, a contracted partner, to validate the single registry strategy. Various UN and governmental partners from the federal Government and the Kurdistan region attended the workshops.
- WFP School Feeding (SF) team, in collaboration with the Regional Bureau of Cairo (RBC), conducted the second Social Behaviour and Change Communication (SBCC) workshop to establish an action plan for implementing the SBCC strategy developed in December 2021. Discussions are underway to plan for a new SF programme to target 450,000 students in 13 governorates in the second term of 2022-2023 academic year.

## Monitoring

- WFP conducted 43 monitoring visits in December, including eleven cash-out and 16 in-kind distribution points for IDPs and Syrian refugees. A survey revealed that over half of the urban livelihood participants reported WFP activities enabled them to create/support their businesses, leading to improved food security status. Results showed that 27 percent of beneficiary households were “food insecure” and “vulnerable to food insecurity”, a decrease of 17 and 34 percentage points respectively, compared to the baseline. This was accompanied by a reduction in the use of consumption and livelihood-based coping strategies and an increase in acceptable food consumption.

## Challenges

- Funding shortfalls remain the largest challenge to WFP Iraq’s activities in 2023 as the programme is only funded up to 61 percent of the total required.
- Some delays are being experienced in obtaining feedback from the government on the single registry strategy. The Ministry of Planning is following up on the issue at the highest levels to expedite the process.
- In December, WFP experienced logistical challenges in transporting food assistance to Jada’a 1 Camp in Mosul. Fortunately, WFP food trucks were granted exceptional access from Kurdistan.

## 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](#).