



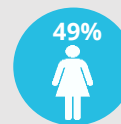
World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Iraq Country Brief January 2023



## In Numbers



**173,781 people assisted**

in January 2023

**US\$ 2.3 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 22.2 m** six months net funding requirements  
(February-July 2023)

## 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

## Operational Updates

- In January, WFP provided cash assistance to over 135,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) and more than 38,000 refugees through its crisis response program. Additionally, WFP assisted 582 individuals from 142 households who had arrived at Jedaa 1 camp from Al-Hol camp with Immediate Response Rations (IRR), registering them for their E-Vouchers upon arrival.
- The Josour initiative, launched in December 2022, continues to help young people gain language, entrepreneurial and digital skills to enter the job market. According to a recent WFP report, 39 percent of men and 32 percent of women participants managed to secure a job. WFP is making further steps to ensure a robust training programme by enhancing the curriculum, budding writers in the Digital Copywriting Program and developing an Entrepreneurship curriculum.
- As part of the economic empowerment initiatives, WFP established two Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) in Wasit and Anbar and will provide them with the equipment and materials needed. WFP contracted the private sector to provide training of trainers on solar power system installation and maintenance in 14 centres. WFP will also expand the economic empowerment initiative to Kirkuk.
- Under the rural livelihood activities, WFP conducted a kick-off meeting for initiating the carbon credit pre-feasibility study. It also started the implementation and construction of wetlands to use Phytotechnology for reclaiming wastewater for agricultural production.
- Under the social protection portfolio, the registration, verification, and activation process of the public distribution system (PDS) is ongoing in Najaf Governorate. During January, WFP reached around 108,143 households, representing 30 percent coverage of the total population in Najaf. WFP continues to provide technical and capacity building support to the Ministry of Trade operations team to facilitate the registration process.
- To ensure that the people of Najaf are well informed when new PDS registration centres are opened, WFP supported each new registration hub, with the necessary equipment and experienced enumerators. Additionally, individual meetings with MOT staff were conducted to ensure quality data collection. In addition, a registration committee comprising

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/iraq](http://www.wfp.org/countries/iraq)

**Photo Caption:** WFP field staff visiting a location in Salaheddin-Baiji to support smallholder farmers.

## 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>310 m</b>	<b>62%</b>
2023 Requirements (In US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (In US\$) (February – July 2023)	
<b>80 m</b>	<b>22.2 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.

MOT leaders and WFP staff was established to organize, plan, and speed up the process.

- WFP and the Ministry of Education (MoE) signed an addendum to their MoU to resume school feeding (SF) operations over the second semester of the 2022-2023 school year, targeting 500,000 students in 13 governorates. Preparations include technical kick-off trainings, a national school feeding workshop, expanding the school feeding field monitoring task force, a SABER exercise in 2023, and an action plan for SF-related activities under the EU-funded social protection project.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Trade (MoT), WFP is developing a new system to replace the System for Cash Operations (SCOPE) as the Household and Entitlement Management platform. WFP supports the MoT with data migration to the new system.

## Monitoring

- In January, WFP conducted 72 monitoring visits, including 30 cash-out distribution points for internally displaced people (IDPs) and Syrian refugees, 32 Livelihood and resilience (Economic Empowerment) sites, 10 EMPACT sites, five e-voucher points, and two shops. In addition, 36 monitoring interviews were carried out with people assisted.
- In December 2022, the Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) livelihood Outcome monitoring survey showed that 55 percent of households in targeted communities reported benefits from enhanced livelihood assets, and 45 percent of targeted communities improved their capacity to manage climatic shocks and risks. Beneficiaries receiving PDS food assistance and engaged in FFA activities showed improved food consumption and reduced reliance on consumption-based coping strategies.
- Food security for assisted Syrian refugees and IDP beneficiaries living in formal camp settings worsened from March 2022 to November 2022. The percentage of food insecure and vulnerable to food insecure increased from 72 to 84% for Syrian refugees and 78 to 83% for IDP beneficiaries.

## Challenges

- Providing unconditional assistance remains the biggest challenge in 2023. This is mainly related to donor fatigue and Iraq transition from humanitarian assistance to a development-oriented programming.
- The lack of technical capacities, staffing limitation, and tight schedule are the main challenges to school feeding (SF) resumption operations. WFP is working to Intensify capacity-building efforts, collaborate more closely with supporting units and explore alternative human resources support options to address these challenges.

## Donors

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