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 hamper people's abilities to return home. WFP Iraq's assistance focuses on changing lives, saving 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 continued shifting its role from emergency response to resilience building and long-term sustainable development. This paradigm shift is critical as Iraq is experiencing the 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) resulting in increased salinity that, in turn, heavily affects agriculture.

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- In May 2023, WFP provided cash assistance to over 2,200 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Jada’a 1 camp and 38,000 Syrian refugees in ten camps through its crisis response programme. The cash assistance for IDPs concluded in May and will continue for refugees until August. However, WFP continues its advocacy for IDPs to be included in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) Social Safety Net (SSN) programme.

Livelihoods Support and Climate change

- Following the conclusion of the Resilience activities funded by the Germany’s Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in April, WFP is preparing for the upcoming projects’ cycle, set to begin in July 2023. This phase includes designing the next phase’s project elements and integrating various components such as financial accessibility, graduation from safety nets, employability tracking, digitalization, sustainability and innovation. WFP will also work on documenting the projects’ activities across Iraq, engaging with beneficiaries to measure impact, and collaborating with stakeholders to build on previous successes. WFP will also aim to broaden the projects’ scope for increased impact through an evidence-based methodology and partnerships-building.

- The updated operational plan for Jousour programme, covering July-December 2023, is set to be presented to the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR). This plan encompasses 1,950 participants in six governorates, namely Anbar, Baghdad, Basra, Missan, Ninawa, and Thi-Qar. In collaboration with the WFP Innovation Accelerator Hub in Munich, a concept note has been drafted to develop a comprehensive website and learning management system for connecting alumni and stakeholders. Additionally, the Jousour team has initiated discussions with the Kurdistan Region’s MoHESR regarding the programme’s expansion.

- As part of WFP’s climate change portfolio activities, WFP launched an initiative of mangrove trees implantation in Basra Governorate in partnership with the Ministry of Environment (MoE), the local government of Basra, and the Marine Science Centre at University of Basra. The initiative aims to preserve a mangrove ecosystem that enhances the region’s biodiversity, sequesters carbon, and mitigates the risks of climatic shocks. The launch event marked the beginning of a mangrove nursery in the tidal flats region with the capacity to produce up to one million mangrove seedlings annually.

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Photo Capture: WFP staff assists in planting a mangrove tree in Basra. ©WFP
**WFP Country Strategy**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Total Received (in USD)</th>
<th>Percentage Funded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>601 m</td>
<td>305 m</td>
<td>29%</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2023 Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June – November 2023)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80 m</td>
<td>37.9 m</td>
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</table>

**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.

**School Feeding**
- Under the School Feeding programme, WFP, and Ministry of Education (MoE) are collaborating to develop Iraq’s national school feeding policy. To establish a common understanding of the policy’s vision, goals, and objectives, a national stakeholders workshop was held with 45 officials from various governmental and non-governmental entities. The feedback from this workshop will inform the draft policy document, which is to be published in mid-June 2023. WFP and the MoE’s Social Behaviour and communication Change (SBCC) committee created an action plan for a Training of Trainers (ToT) programme involving 40 participants from the ministry’s directorates. In collaboration with WFP at the corporate level, a digital platform called School Connect is being developed to streamline field-level monitoring, data entry, and the generation of monthly school reports.

**Social Protection**
- Under the Social Protection Intervention, WFP and the Ministry of Trade (MoT) successfully collaborated to complete the digitalization process of the public Distribution system (PDS) in Najaf Governorate. This process supported the registration of 97 percent of the governorate’s households in the PDS. With the system now launched and accessible to the public, users can submit requests to update any changes in family’s status i.e. adding a newborn, split households following a family member’s marriage etc., and receive their monthly entitlements of food rations. PDS cards were printed for all government employees, with technical support provided by WFP. Additionally, in Duhok Governorate, registration of households is ongoing, reaching 47,000 across 20 registration stations so far, with plans for expansion.

- Discussions are underway to finalize the specifications and design documents for the Single Registry System, a system that enables social protection programmes and Government registries to coordinate and collaborate by integrating services and information flow between relevant entities. WFP plans to consult with the governmental stakeholders through key informant interviews involving the Ministry of Planning and Department of Information Technology of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). These consultations will be followed by two workshops at the federal and KRG levels under the Technical Committee for Single Registry and Digitalization.

**Monitoring**
WFP conducted 156 monitoring visits in May, including visits to cash-out distribution points, economic empowerment sites, rural livelihood assessments, Joussour sites, PDS card registration stations, e-voucher points, and shop sites. WFP also conducted 100 monitoring interviews with beneficiaries.

**Challenges**
The ongoing transition from humanitarian to development assistance in Iraq requires consistent, sufficient, multi-year and flexible funding to sustain and scale up WFP’s strategic activities in-country.

**Donors**
WFP thanks all partners for their direct and multilateral contributions including Canada, Denmark, European Union, Germany, 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.