



World Food Programme

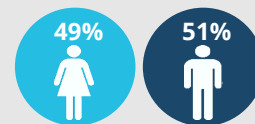
SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## WFP Iraq

Country Brief  
October 2023

## In Numbers



47,919 People assisted in October 2023

USD 996,752 cash-based transfers made

USD 53.3 six months (November 2023 - April 2024)  
net funding requirements

### Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict as well as the impact of climate change continue to impact people's lives. There are currently 1.2 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 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 affected by reduced rainfall and decreased river flows in the country's two rivers (Tigris and Euphrates). In turn, this has resulted in increased drought and salinization in soil and water, both of which heavily affect agriculture.



Population: **44 million**  
(UNFPA 2023)

2021 Human Development Index: 121  
out of 191 (lowest)

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

**1.15 million** IDPs (IOM)  
**262,218** Syrian refugees in Iraq

### Operational Updates

#### General Food Assistance

- In October 2023, WFP provided cash assistance to over 36,000 Syrian refugees, and electronic vouchers and assorted food to more than 2,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) arriving to Jada'a 1 camp. WFP distributed multi-purpose cash assistance to over 6,000 returnees without civil documentation in Baghdad, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Wasit, Diyala, Anbar, Babil, and Salahuddin governorates. Additionally, in collaboration with UN Women, 1,715 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) women and children under two years of age in Muthana Governorate received cash assistance to meet their basic food security and nutritional needs.

#### Economic Empowerment, Livelihoods Support and Climate Change

- In collaboration with the International Trade Centre (ITC), WFP initiated a pilot hub for the smallholder farmers participating in horticulture activities in Ninawa Governorate. This pilot project is part of a larger joint ITC-WFP *Trade for Good* initiative. This initiative aims to strengthen the production capacity of rural Iraqi smallholder farmers and connect them to the market towards enhancing their sustainable livelihoods.
- Under Jousour, a national programme to promote digital skills and entrepreneurship for youth in Iraq, WFP is collaborating with the Iraq Company for Financing (ICF) and the Iraq Company for Bank Guarantees (ICBG) to launch a Pre-Authorized Debit (Pad) Bootcamp pilot programme in Baghdad. The pilot aims to assist up to 30 Jousour graduates in launching and expanding their businesses over one month, with microloans from ICF to help their businesses grow.
- Through a two-day joint mission in Basra Governorate, WFP and the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) successfully identified suitable locations where wastewater could be utilized for regenerative agriculture, promoting sustainable food security through the water-food nexus. Additionally, WFP organized and facilitated the second workshop for the inter-ministerial climate information technical working group (TWG) in Erbil Governorate with various Governmental entities from both Federal Iraq and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). The workshop focused on meteorological, drought

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

**Photo Capture:** Zana made a remarkable transition from a Part-Time work to beekeeping entrepreneur, following his graduation from VTC in Sulaymaniyah.

**Iraq Country Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)**

Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
<b>701m</b>	<b>335m</b>	<b>23%</b>
2023 Requirements (In USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (November 2023 – April 2024)	
<b>116m</b>	<b>53.3m</b>	

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Crisis-affected people in Iraq, including IDPs and refugees, can 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 Outcome 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.
- Implement climate resilience projects for targeted individuals and communities for and on behalf of the Government and other actors.

**Strategic Outcome 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.

outlooks and data gap solutions. WFP also provided technical support to the Ministry of Environment (MoEN) to effectively engage newly established climate departments in 15 Governorates into climate adaptation and mitigation actions.

### School Feeding

- WFP is supporting the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Planning with its technical expertise, to conclude the formulation of the National School Feeding Policy, expected to be launched in December 2023.

### Social Protection

- WFP continues to provide technical and field-level support to the Ministry of Trade (MoT) with the registration activities of the Public Distribution System (PDS). The registration rates in Dohuk, Kirkuk, Muthana, and Baghdad (Al Karkh) Governorates have reached 97, 94, 94, and 81 percent, respectively. Additionally, WFP will continue to collaborate with the technical team at MoT to enhance the system features set to be rolled out by the end of November.
- As part of WFP's Single Registry project, which aims to enhance coordination and information flow between social protection programmes and Government registries, WFP is actively collaborating with a team of international experts on updating the Single Registry design by incorporating feedback received from the Government. Subsequently, WFP will engage in discussions regarding the implementation of the updated Single Registry system with the Government.

### Monitoring

- The recent Food Security Outcome Monitoring exercise conducted in August 2023 indicated a substantial decrease in vulnerability among Syrian Refugees and IDPs in Jada'a1 camp due to WFP's food assistance. Without WFP assistance, 27 percent of Syrian refugees would face abject poverty, and the proportion of food-secure refugees able to meet daily needs would fall from 15 percent to 3.9 percent. As for the IDPs in Jada'a1 camp, WFP assistance significantly reduced overall vulnerability, preventing 19 percent of IDP households from falling below the poverty line. Without WFP assistance, an additional 29 percent would fall into abject poverty.
- During October 2023, WFP conducted 120 process monitoring visits to cash distribution points, economic empowerment sites, rural livelihood initiatives, Jousour activities, e-voucher points and shops, and conducted 62 monitoring interviews with beneficiaries.

### Hamza's Journey to Empowerment



Hamza in the graduation ceremony receiving his certificate.

Hamza, a determined 25-year-old young graduate with dwarfism, was not able to find a job. He joined the national Jousour Programme, supported by WFP and the University of Sulaymaniyah, which offered online courses. With these courses, he gained new skills in Information Technology, English, entrepreneurship, and life skills, adapting to a new way of learning. "Jousour was a totally new chapter in my life. It empowered me with much-needed digital skills that are required in the job market," Hamza said, adding that "With the help of this programme, I gained working experience, which was difficult to achieve as a disabled young person."

### Donors

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