



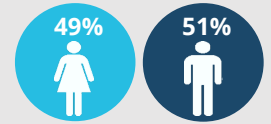
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief November 2023

In Numbers



49,111 people assisted in November 2023

USD 1,038 M cash-based transfers made

USD 54.7 six months (December 2023 - May 2024)
net funding requirements

Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict as well as the impact of climate change continue to affect the lives of people. There are currently 1.2 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 reflected 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 November 2023, WFP provided cash assistance to over 36,000 Syrian refugees, and electronic vouchers to more than 3,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) who arrived at Jada'a 1 camp. Additionally, WFP distributed multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to over 7,000 returnees without civil documentation in Baghdad, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Wasit, Diyala, Anbar, Babil, and Salahuddin Governorates. Moreover, in collaboration with UN Women, more than 1,800 pregnant and breastfeeding (PBW) women and children aged 6–24 months 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 Government of Iraq, WFP organized a five-day Training of Trainers (ToT) for instructors affiliated with the Riyada initiative, which was launched by the Government to support youth in gaining entrepreneurship skills. The ToT focused on providing comprehensive knowledge and developing skills in financial literacy and inclusion, covering fundamental concepts and effective management strategies.
- In coordination with the Ministry of Environment and the Iraqi Meteorological and Seismology Organization, WFP developed a scope of work and terms of reference for the Inter-Ministerial Climate Technical Working Group, which will review, process, and analyse climate-related data and provide relevant recommendations to the public and Governmental entities.
- WFP provided technical assistance to support the Iraqi delegation attending the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28) in UAE. The assistance encompassed technical consultancy, presentations, and trainings, particularly focusing on recent WFP studies on drought, and land use land cover classification, which provides an evidence-based analysis on the distribution and utilization of lands across Iraq to help the Government of Iraq make informed decisions in mitigating the impact of climate change.

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Photo Capture: A capture from WFP Event on Land Use and Land Cover classification study in Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).

WFP Iraq Strategic Plan (January 2020 – December 2024)

Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
701 million	335 million	22%
2023 Requirements (In USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (December 2023 – May 2024)
116 million		54.7 million

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.

School Feeding

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, WFP launched a six-month campaign on Social Behaviour and Change Communication (SBCC) in 13 districts across Iraq. This comprehensive campaign included training of officials from the Departments of Education and Health to facilitate SBCC sessions targeting teachers, students, and parents using educational modules provided by WFP.

Social Protection

- The Public Distribution System (PDS) is currently operational in the Najaf, Muthana, Duhok, and Kirkuk Governorates. In addition, 2 million households in Baghdad Governorate have been registered. Moreover, together with the Ministry of Trade (MoT), an exit strategy and transition plan for PDS, is being finalised, which includes knowledge transfer and disaster recovery.
- As part of WFP's Single Registry project, which aims to enhance coordination and information flow between social

protection programmes and Government registries, WFP commenced data management sessions in collaboration with the Iraqi National Data Centre of the Council of Ministers Secretariat (COMSEC). The sessions aim to develop comprehensive data management policies, including policies on data quality, privacy, protection, and exchange.

Evidence Generation

- In November, WFP held an event in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) to present the findings of a study on Land Use Land Cover (LULC) classification. The event was attended by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) and representatives from, partners, sister UN agencies, donors and diplomatic community. The study presents changes in land use and urban expansion through high-resolution satellite imagery. The project was carried out in collaboration with the Central Statistic Organization (CSO) and the Kurdistan Regional Statistics Office (KRSO) to build the capacities of the KRG personnel.
- WFP introduced the first phase of a drought study in partnership with the Ministry of Water Resources at the Federal level and Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources in KRI. The study aims to establish a drought risk management system, including a data storage system, risks mapping, groundwater surveys, and an assessment of the socio-economic impact of drought on beneficiaries. The study also aims to develop an Integrated Coordinated Drought Risk Management Framework (ICDRMF) for Iraq.

Monitoring

- During November 2023, WFP conducted 83 process monitoring visits to cash distribution points, economic empowerment sites, rural livelihood initiatives, Jousour activities, e-voucher points, and shops, and conducted 117 monitoring interviews with beneficiaries.

From Loss to Thriving Beekeeping Business



Haider restores his beekeeping business

Haider, a 29-year-old beekeeper from Basra, lost most of his hives due to environmental challenges. After receiving support from WFP beekeeping programme, he regained hope. The Programme gave him training, grant for equipment, and enthusiasm to renew his business. Owing four new hives, Haider trained his wife to become a beekeeper. The

programme enabled Haider to breed new bee queens and expand his hive count. Haider plans to find larger pastures, start a page for sales, and make beekeeping a reliable livelihood.

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, Netherlands, United Kingdom, UN Agencies, United States, the World Bank, PepsiCo Foundation, and individual donors through #ShareTheMeal.