



WFP Iraq

Country Brief

December 2023/ January 2024

Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict as well as the impact of climate change continue to affect the lives of people. There are currently 1.12 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and more than 300,000 refugees and asylum-seekers 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.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) was an opportunity for WFP in Iraq to highlight the inextricable link between climate action and the food systems transformation; share the need for climate change adaptation to scale up climate action related to food, water, and energy; and address loss and damage by emphasizing the work carried out in Iraq to strengthen early warning systems and anticipatory action.



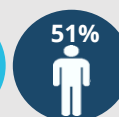
Population: **44 million**
(UNFPA 2023)

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

In Numbers



13,123 people assisted in December 2023

3,043 people assisted in January 2024

USD 0.4 million cash-based transfers made in December 2023 and **USD 0.3 million** in January 2024

USD 41.5 million six months (February 2024 – July 2024) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- WFP continued to provide electronic vouchers to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Jada'a 1 camp reaching around 3,000 IDPs in December 2023 and January 2024, including 169 newly arrived families (620 returnees) coming from Al-Hol camp in Syria. Around 8,000 returnees and host community members without civil documentation received WFP multi-purpose cash assistance in December 2023 and January 2024. Moreover, in collaboration with UN Women, 1,860 pregnant and breastfeeding women in Muthanna Governorate received cash assistance to meet their basic food and nutritional needs during the two month reporting period.

Economic Empowerment, Livelihoods Support and Climate Change

- In cooperation with Finman Group, WFP provided financial literacy training to 30 staff of the Riyada Initiative, a national programme led by the Prime Minister's Office, to promote entrepreneurial knowledge for the unemployed youth of Iraq.
- In December 2023, the WFP-supported Jousour (Bridges) programme was adopted by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to be implemented across six governorates including the University of Technology in Baghdad as well as Mosul, Anbar, Missan, Thi-Qar and Basrah universities in Iraq to equip 1,950 young participants with marketable skills.
- In January 2024, WFP Iraq partnered with the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)'s Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources to engage 30 women in a business planning and marketing course to enhance their entrepreneurial skills. Participants will submit their business plans to WFP in February 2024, to be considered for receiving a USD 2,000 seed fund to launch their businesses.
- WFP successfully concluded the design phase for "Her Venture" project, a pilot focused on establishing resilient and sustainable business models driven by women.
- In December 2023, in collaboration with the Rwanga Foundation for Development, WFP facilitated two planting campaigns in Erbil by supplying 25,000 water boxes as an effective irrigation method. WFP further provided 2,000 water boxes for planting activities in Basra, Salah-Al-Din, Anbar, Zakho, and Sulaymaniyah Governorates.

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/iraq

Photo Capture: WFP Iraq's session at the Iraqi Pavilion during COP28 in United Arab Emirates

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – December 2024)

Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
701 million	344 million	29%
2024 Requirements (In USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February 2024 – July 2024)
131 million		41.5 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.

- WFP and the KRG's Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources collaborated to implement various activities including nursery rehabilitation, supporting planting campaigns, renovation of water channels, and establishing pasture and silvo-pastures in Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah Governorates.
- In January 2024, WFP conducted a workshop at the Ministry of Environment for the development of Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs), with the participation of the climate change departments in six governorates including Ninewah, Salahaddin, Basra, Al-Muthanna, Diyala and Missan. The workshop provided technical guidance on LAP development and outlined LAP structure and operational procedures.

Communication and coordination efforts have been initiated with local governmental departments to nominate LAP committee representatives.

- In collaboration with the KRG's Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, WFP implemented a honey value chain project to support beekeepers by offering training courses and supplying beekeeping toolkits and beehives. 105 participants completed a beekeeping technical skills training in Barzan area in January 2024. The distribution of toolkits and beehives is scheduled for March 2024 to mitigate the impact of harsh winter weather on the beehives.

WFP Participation in COP28

- In December 2023, WFP participated in COP28 and played a pivotal role in supporting the Government of Iraq in facilitating its first-ever CoP28 Pavilion. WFP Iraq organized side events focused on forestry, the water-energy-food nexus, as well as climate finance and green growth. During COP28, several Memorandums of Understanding were signed between WFP Iraq and the Stockholm Environment Institute, the International Centre for Bio-saline Agriculture (ICBA) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to advance joint work in the country.

School Feeding

- In January 2024, WFP and the Ministry of Education finalized negotiations on a new collaboration framework, with the development of the School Feeding policy, identified as a key short-term objective. Other activities under the framework include conducting an institutional capacity assessment using the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) tool and leveraging WFP's technical expertise to digitize school feeding data management systems "school connect", which have been prioritized for collaboration throughout 2024.

Social Protection

- In December 2023, WFP started the Public Distribution System (PDS) handover capacity building trainings to ensure full ownership of the PDS system by the Ministry of Trade. In collaboration with the Council of Ministers Secretariat (COMSEC)'s National Data Centre (NDC), WFP is finalizing the implementation for Disaster Recovery (DR) for the PDS System.
- To initiate the second phase of WFP's Single Registry project, which aims to enhance coordination and information flow between social protection programmes and Government registries, WFP organised a technical workshop in January 2024 with the key Government stakeholders including the NDC as well as the Ministries of Planning, Trade, Health, and Labour to develop the scope of work.

Donors

WFP thanks all partners for their direct and multilateral contributions including Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, UN Agencies, the United States, the World Bank, PepsiCo Foundation, and individual donors through #ShareTheMeal.