



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief February 2024

Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict as well as the impact of climate change continue to affect 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.

In a strategic shift, WFP Iraq is transitioning from emergency response to resilience building and long-term sustainable development. This move is particularly significant given Iraq's susceptibility to climate change, especially evident in the southern region. In conjunction with this shift, WFP is aligning the targeting of beneficiaries across the Jousour, Youth Empowerment (YEMP), and Climate Agriculture Practices (CAP) activities throughout Iraqi governorates, bolstered by government commitments, to broaden outreach to previously underserved areas.



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 (UNHCR)

In Numbers



10,737 people assisted in February 2024

USD 0.4 million cash-based transfers made in February 2024

USD 37.4 million six months (March 2024 – August 2024) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- In February 2024, 2,713 internally displaced persons (IDPs), received WFP e-voucher food assistance at the Jada'a 1 camp in Ninewa Governorate. Furthermore, WFP provided multi-purpose cash assistance to 8,024 vulnerable returnees and host community members without civil documentation in Baghdad, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Wasit, Diyala, Anbar, Babil, and Salahuddin Governorates.

Economic Empowerment, Livelihoods Support & Climate Action

- As part of promoting livelihood diversification, WFP in coordination with the local government conducted a needs assessment for off-farm livelihood interventions to identify marginalized people in Qadisiyah, Thi-qar, Missan and Muthanna governorates, and their vocational training needs.
- The International Trade Center (ITC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and WFP held a joint workshop to finalize the business model and operational details of a pilot aggregation hub project in Mosul (Ninewa Governorate), aiding smallholder farmers in horticulture activities with market services and linkages.
- Under the Local Adaptation Plan (LAP) project with the Ministry of Environment (MoEN), local adaptation committees were formed in six targeted governorates (Salahaddin, Ninewa, Basra, Al-Muthanna, Diyala, and Missan) to assess climatic challenges and vulnerabilities in targeted communities. Kick-off meetings were held with local directorate stakeholders from the Ministry of Agriculture, the water resource management, planning and municipalities. Meetings also included community-based organisations, Non-Government organisations and UN agencies (IOM, UNDP and UNEP).
- As part of its support to the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), WFP completed the procurement of Agro-Meteorological Automatic Weather Stations. A technical capacity building was conducted for 15 Agro-Meteorological Center staff to enhance the development of crop agrometeorological forecasting products.
- WFP collaborated with the International Center for Biosaline (ICBA) on sharing climatic hourly data with MoA. ICBA is developing an agricultural module analyzing weather events focusing on effects, best practices, and

Photo Capture: The International Academy of Iraq School visits WFP Iraq and Marine Science Centre for an insightful tour of the mangrove nursery in Basra Governorate. ©WFP

Contact info: Deniz Akkus (deniz.akkus@wfp.org)
Representative: Ally Raza Qureshi
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/iraq

Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – December 2024)

Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
701 million	356 million	42%
2024 Requirements (In USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (March - August 2024)
131 million		37.4 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.

relevant data for agricultural production.

- Twenty youth-led startup ventures from Koya University in Erbil Governorate were supported to access financial opportunities under the national Jousour (Bridges) programme, which is an initiative providing youth with marketable digital and English skills to boost their employability and build better livelihoods.
- As part of the Savings, Insurance, and Loans Layering Approach (SAILL) pilot, WFP engaged with Weather Risk Management Services (WRMS), a climate and agriculture risk management company, to design climate-risk insurance (CRI) products for rural Iraqi populations. Data collection for the first CRI pilot is currently underway.

School Feeding

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Planning (MoP), WFP conducted additional consultations on the draft national school feeding policy. Feedback from the ministries has been integrated into the

final draft of the policy. The finalization of the policy is currently projected for mid-April 2024 and the official launch is foreseen for May 2024. WFP and MoE are devising a new collaboration framework to enhance the national school feeding policy. This includes conducting an institutional capacity assessment using the Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) tool and leveraging WFP's technical expertise in digitizing school feeding data management systems. Discussions with MoE on the SABER assessment's terms of reference, scheduled for the first half of 2024, have commenced.

- WFP has also been actively engaged in discussions within the national nutrition cluster, contributing to the ongoing development of Iraq's national nutrition strategy.

Social Protection

- A capacity strengthening training was held at the Authority of Statistics and Geographic Information Systems (ASGIS) premises in Baghdad on 28 and 29 February, to increase proficiency in utilizing a tailored food security monitoring system (FSMS) established within ASGIS.
- The rehabilitation of a vocational training center in Al Diwaniya Governorate was completed and a field visit was conducted by WFP to prepare for the project launch.

Assessment and Monitoring

- WFP continued supporting the Ministry of Water Resources' drought study project targeting key drivers of drought in Iraq such as water resources management, climate change, unilateral upstream damming, as well as water abstraction and diversion. Assistance included establishing early warning systems and improving drought risk management. A two-week training was held in Erbil from 3 to 15 February hosting 73 participants, covering aspects such as data entry, visualization, analysis and management.
- In February, WFP field monitors conducted a total of 82 monitoring visits, covering 42 cash-out distribution points for Syrian refugees, 19 Jousour locations, 20 rural livelihood initiatives, and 1 shop. Additionally, 72 monitoring interviews were conducted with beneficiaries.

Iraq adaptation to climate change



WFP Iraq is assisting Najaf Governorate's Directorate of Agriculture to transform food waste into compost and promote sustainable farming practices. 40 tons of food waste and fronds can create

30 mt of organic compost, rich in organic matter, which is distributed to farmers, cutting their chemical fertilizer reliance by up to 80 percent. The project has a joint benefit for farmers and the environment itself, with improved soil structure leading to 25 percent increased agricultural production.

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.