



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

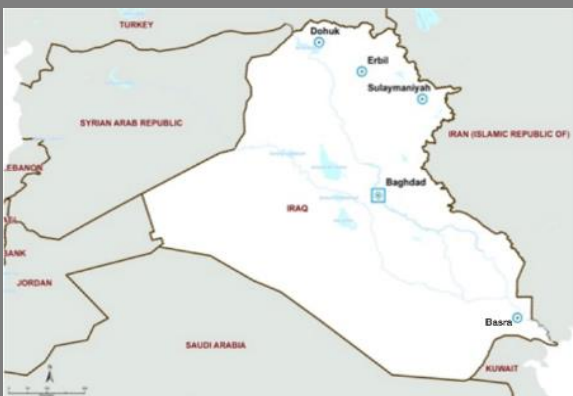


## WFP Iraq Country Brief July 2024

### Operational Context

Improvements in the security environment and recent political stability have created opportunities for Iraq to move toward a positive trajectory. However, the adverse effects of climate change are impacting agricultural productivity, with increased salinization, desertification, reduced water flows in the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and decreasing rainfall. This has resulted in the loss of 12 million hectares of arable land, drastically affecting agricultural production. The repercussions of the climate change crisis have disproportionately affected the most vulnerable communities, leading to distress and heightened food insecurity.

In a strategic move, WFP Iraq is transitioning its role from emergency response to resilience building and long-term sustainable development. This shift is particularly significant given Iraq's susceptibility to climate change, which is especially evident in the southern region of the country. In conjunction with this shift, WFP is aligning the targeting of beneficiaries across the national Jousour programme for skills development, youth economic empowerment (YEMP), climate agricultural practices (CAP) activities, and strengthening the safety net of the national social protection system to ensure alignment with strategic objectives and to broaden outreach to previously underserved areas.



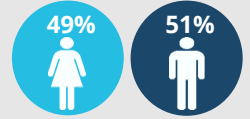
Population: **46.5 million**  
(UNFPA 2024)

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

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

**1.09 million** IDPs (IOM)  
**286,099** Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

### In Numbers



**12,130** People assisted in July 2024

**USD 366,502** Cash-based transfers made in July 2024

**USD 13.3 million** six months (August 2024 - January 2025) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

#### General Food Assistance

- WFP assisted 3,264 internally displaced persons (IDPs) (858 households) in the Jada'a1 camp in Ninewa Governorate with e-vouchers for food commodities. WFP also assisted 8,278 individuals (1,672 households) without civil documentation with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) in Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Diyala, and Babel Governorates.

#### Economic Empowerment, Livelihoods and Climate Change

- On 25 July, WFP and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) launched a new initiative titled "Locally Led Climate Adaptation for Food Security and Stability". The partnership was marked by a high-level signing ceremony attended by senior representatives from both the Government and USAID. This initiative is designed to strengthen the capacity of the Government and vulnerable communities, particularly smallholder farmers, in climate preparedness, risk reduction, and climate adaptation practices to strengthen their food security.
- As part of its technical agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), WFP conducted three joint missions with an evaluation team from the Ministry to prepare for the handover of seven livelihood and climate change projects in Sulaymaniyah and Duhok Governorates. The mission aimed to ensure the quality of the service delivered through these projects and to gather lessons for future activities.
- As part of the interventions to support food security and agricultural resilience through climate adaptation and capacity development, WFP and the Water Users Association (WUA) at the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) participated in a field mission to Diyala Governorate. The mission focused on supporting two projects aimed at addressing the water management needs of the local community in Al-Khalis district in Diyala.
- As part of the collaboration between WFP and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) on E-Farming, an application aimed at centralizing farmer-related data

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

Photo Caption: Ex-WFP Representative and Country Director, Ally-Raza Quresh and USAID-Iraq Acting Mission Director, Erin Mone-Marquez, signing the Climate Adaptation Agreement.

Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – December 2024)		
Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
668 million	375 million	67%
2024 Requirements (In USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2024 – January 2025)
90.3 million		13.3 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 strengthening the safety net component of the government social protection system.

and enhancing information dissemination and financial and market access for over 650,000 farmers across Iraq, WFP held a “Discovery Workshop” in Karbala Governorate attended by representatives from MoA and the WFP project team. The workshop discussed the application’s functionality and key features and gathered feedback in preparation for its pilot launch in Kerbala.

- In coordination with the Directorate of Labour and Social Affairs in Kirkuk Governorate, WFP distributed 111 toolkits to selected young men and women who had completed entrepreneurship training and vocational courses in mobile phone maintenance, welding, and photography. The toolkits are intended to support the recipients in starting their own businesses.

**Social Protection**

- On 29 July, WFP and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) signed a Letter of Cooperation (LoC) to launch the Graduation Pathways project, which aims to

enable the transition of Social Safety Net (SSN) beneficiaries from Government assistance to self-reliance and economic empowerment.

**Monitoring**

- In July, WFP published a [rapid assessment report](#) featuring the food security situation of the IDPs at Jada’a 1 camp. The report highlights key food security and livelihood challenges, including funding constraints, lack of access to social protection schemes, and civil documentation barriers. It reveals that one-quarter (23 percent) of the camp population currently experience moderate food insecurity, while an additional 55 percent are classified as marginally food-insecure. The report emphasizes the need for sustained food assistance and continued advocacy efforts, particularly with the expected increase in returnees from the Al-Hol camp in Syria.
- A WFP Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) report for Syrian refugees revealed a significant improvement in their food security, thanks to WFP assistance. The percentage of households facing food insecurity and vulnerability to food insecurity dropped from 80 percent in August 2023 to 65 percent in June 2024. Additionally, the minimum purchasing power needed to meet basic needs increased from 42 percent in 2023 to 49 percent in 2024. However, the report showed that without WFP support, 21 percent of these households would fall into abject poverty, below the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) threshold.
- WFP field monitors conducted 27 monitoring visits, encompassing 9 cash-out distribution points for IDPs and Syrian refugees, 1 Economic Empowerment, 16 Rural Livelihood initiatives, and 1 shop. Additionally, they conducted 50 monitoring interviews with beneficiaries.

**From Waste to Organic Treasure: A Farmer’s Story of Sustainable Agriculture**

In an effort to promote environmental sustainability, tackle food waste, and reduce ecological impact, WFP collaborated with the Department of Agriculture to launch an initiative to train farmers on converting food waste into compost. The project provides both environmental and agricultural benefits. One of the farmers who received training in



*The compost applied in the farmer’s garden*

compost production decided to put his new skills to the test by collecting a small amount of food waste from his home and the local market. With this, he constructed a simple composting pile in his garden using the techniques that he had learned in the training. Over the course of nearly 2.5 months, the waste gradually transformed into rich and nutrient-dense compost. He applied this organic treasure to his trees and okra crops. Thanks to the project, not only did he help reduce waste, but he also reaped the rewards of healthier, more fertile soil for his farming business.

**Donors:** WFP thanks all partners for their direct and multilateral contributions including Austria, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, the Netherlands, private donors, the United Kingdom, UN Agencies, the United States, and the World Bank.