



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief October 2024

Operational Context

Improvements in the security environment and recent political stability have created opportunities for Iraq to pursue a positive trajectory. However, the country continues to face significant challenges due to the adverse effects of climate change, which are severely impacting agricultural productivity. Increased salinization, desertification, reduced water flows in the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and declining rainfall have 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 crisis response to resilience building and long-term sustainable development. This shift is particularly significant given Iraq's susceptibility to climate change, especially in the southern region of the country. 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. This alignment ensures strategic objectives are met and broadens 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



49,166 People assisted in October 2024

USD 1.2 million Cash-based transfers distributed
in October 2024

USD 1.6 million six months (November 2024 –
April 2025) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- WFP assisted 2,591 resident beneficiaries (638 households) in the Jada'a1 camp in Ninewa Governorate with e-vouchers for food commodities.
- Additionally, WFP distributed cash assistance to 37,756 Syrian refugees (6,716 households) in nine camps across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI).
- Furthermore, WFP distributed multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to 8,477 individuals (1,707 households) without civil documentation in Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Diyala, and Babel Governorates.

Economic Empowerment, Livelihoods and Climate

- As part of its Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment activities, WFP organised a 3-week training for the participants of SheCan initiative, which aims to support communities to transition from humanitarian assistance, by building sustainable livelihoods and fostering resilience. The training took place in Kerbala and Basra Governorates and covered topics of financial literacy and entrepreneurship. Participants will be then connected to a WFP-supported microfinance institution (MFI) to assess eligibility for tailored loans to boost their income-generating activities.
- WFP-Iraq launched the "Promoting Adaptation Through Localized Methods (PALM)" campaign, encouraging youth innovators to submit proposals for climate-smart projects. This campaign seeks to promote sustainable and climate-smart agriculture and address Iraq's post-harvest losses and water scarcity. Around 50 project proposals have been received and are currently under assessment.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), launched the installation and rehabilitation of high-gain communication equipment for automated Agronomic-Meteorological station. This initiative aims to enhance the Ministry's agrometeorological network, providing real-time weather and climate data to inform decision-making in the agriculture sector. The collaboration includes on-site training for MoA's technical staff to strengthen their technical and operational capacity.

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Photo Capture: During the ToT Graduation Pathway in Kerbala.

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Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – December 2024)		
Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
668 million	384 million	95%
2024 Requirements (In USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (November 2024 – April 2025)
90.3 million		1.6 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 the Public Distribution System (PDS) modernization and strengthening the safety net component of the government social protection system.

School Feeding:

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, WFP conducted a procurement and supply chain management training for the School Feeding Committee of the Ministry. A second session covering the supply chain and monitoring topics will take place in late November for the Ministry’s staff in the locations where the School Feeding programme will be implemented.

Social Protection

- As part of the Youth Economic Empowerment project, WFP launched an entrepreneurship Training of Trainers (ToT) for the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) staff from Baghdad, Al-Naseriya, and Al-

Diwaniya. This training strengthens MoLSA's ability to guide Social Safety Net (SSN) beneficiaries toward self-reliance through business creation and enhance participants' operational and technical skills.

- In partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), WFP held a five-day TRANSFORM training in Iraq for Government officials in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). The training aimed at strengthening the social protection systems through enhanced critical thinking and improved design and effectiveness of the national social protection floors. The training was attended by 19 officials from various KRI ministries.

Monitoring

WFP conducted 35 visits, encompassing 13 cash-out distribution points for IDPs and Syrian refugees, five Economic Empowerment project locations, 16 rural livelihood initiatives, and one shop. In addition, WFP conducted 86 monitoring interviews with beneficiaries.

Resilient Baiji for Future Generations



Thamer planting trees on site

Thamer, a resident of Baiji District in Salah Al-Din Governorate, a city affected by ongoing drought and encroaching sand dunes, which poses significant threats to both people’s livelihoods and the environment. Thamer

joined the Sands Dune Fixation campaign led by WFP, a project that planted thousands of trees to curb sand movement, improve green cover, and combat climate change impacts. Thamer learned drought-resistant tree planting techniques, enabling him to contribute to the sustainability of his environment. “Now, I share this knowledge with my community to inspire others to take action. I believe we can create a greener, resilient Baiji for future generations”. Thamer said.

Challenges

WFP Iraq faces a 5 percent funding gap for the next 6-months. WFP strategic shift from humanitarian to development assistance requires consistent, sufficient, multi-year, and flexible funding to ensure the success and sustainability of its programmes.

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, Switzerland, the Netherlands, private donors, the United Kingdom, UN Agencies, the United States, and the World Bank.