



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief December 2024

In Numbers



49,149 People assisted in December 2024

USD 1.25 million in Cash-based transfers made in December 2024

USD 12 million six months (January - June 2025) net funding requirements

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 severely impact 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 crisis have disproportionately affected the most vulnerable communities, leading to distress and heightened food insecurity.

In a strategic move, WFP Iraq is transitioning 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 country's southern region. 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: 46.5million (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)

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- WFP assisted 2,075 resident beneficiaries (496 households) in the Al-Amal Centre (formerly Jada'h 1 centre) in Ninewa Governorate with e-vouchers for food commodities. In addition, WFP supported 38,445 Syrian refugees (6,890 households) in nine camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) with monthly cash assistance. Furthermore, WFP provided multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to 8,629 individuals (1,742 households) without civil documentation in Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Diyala, and Babel Governorates.
- WFP launched the Iraq Aid Helpline as part of its Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM) to improve community engagement and feedback collection on WFP assistance. Replacing the toll-free hotline, the helpline offers accessible options like virtual calls and chatbots. This soft launch, supported by a visibility campaign and community engagement plan, aims to maximize its reach and ensure inclusivity among beneficiaries.

Economic Empowerment, Livelihoods and Climate

- As part of the SheCan initiative, focused on enhancing the livelihoods of women in rural areas and promoting their economic empowerment, WFP began a partnership with Baghdad Women Association (BWA) to conduct gender sensitization workshops and community empowerment sessions for 156 targeted participants. WFP's lending partner is currently conducting due diligence and assessments to determine participants' eligibility for loans.
- From 22 to 24 December 2024, WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment (MoEN), organized a workshop on the Locally led Climate Adaptation Plan (LAP) in Basra governorate. The workshop witnessed active participation from various ministries' representatives. It focused on advancing the development of the LAP to enhance climate resilience across six selected governorates: Basra, Maysan, Muthanna, Diyala, Ninewa, and Salah Al-Din.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), provided training sessions to the MoA's technical

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Photo Capture: The LAP workshop in Basra (22-24 December 2024).

Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – February 2025)		
Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
668 million	385 million	63 percent
2025 Requirements (In USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (January-June 2025)
46.7 million		12 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.

staff to enhance anticipatory action and data management. The sessions focused on data entry, retrieval, analysis, and creating climate information products while maintaining data integrity.

School Feeding

WFP is preparing to conduct a Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) training for Ministry of Education staff in January 2025.

Social Protection

- WFP held a follow-up meeting on the single registry project to finalize vendor and digital solution selection in line with the Government’s needs and project objectives. Key stakeholders, including the National Data Centre, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA), Ministry of Planning (MoP), and Council of Ministers Secretariate (COMSEC), attended the meeting. The session concluded with an agreement to share recommendations on vendor selection, training, knowledge transfer, and long-term sustainability with the Government.
- From 20 to 21 December 2024, WFP, in collaboration with MoLSA, organized a workshop in Erbil to review the progress of the Economic Empowerment Pathways project, while exploring international best practices. Participants, including representatives from MoP and the Riyda Initiative, discussed how to refine the project’s strategy.
- In collaboration with the federal Commission for Statistics and Geographical Information Systems (CSGIS) and the Kurdistan Region Statistical Office (KRSO), WFP successfully deployed the Food Security Monitoring Systems (FSMS) platform. WFP will provide year-long technical support to ensure the platform’s functionality.

Monitoring

- A recent monitoring report on WFP’s Resilience Programme highlighted its significant success in enhancing household resilience, food security, and livelihoods across Iraq. Up to 77 percent of supported households benefited from improved assets, with standout achievements in the Zero Tillage initiative in Ninewa governorate (100 percent) and Beekeeping activities in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah governorates (95 percent).

Challenges

- WFP’s food assistance programme supporting the residents of Al Amal centre and 38,000 Syrian refugees is facing a funding shortfall as of March 2025. To sustain this critical support, including the resilience building activities, WFP requires USD 12 million until June 2025.
- WFP is engaging with the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) to facilitate the transition of assistance for Syrian refugees under their management. WFP’s strategic shift from humanitarian to development assistance requires multi-year and flexible funding to ensure the sustainable impact of its programmes.

Donors

WFP thanks all partners for their direct and multilateral contributions, including Austria, Canada, Denmark, the European Union, Germany, Norway, 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.