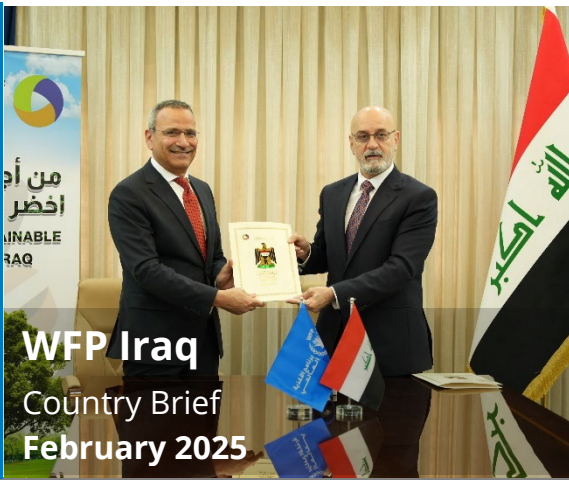




World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iraq Country Brief February 2025

In Numbers



52,185 people assisted in February 2025

USD 1.3 million in cash-based transfers made in February 2025

USD 13.6 million six months (March – August 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.

WFP Iraq is transitioning from crisis response to resilience building and long-term sustainable development. WFP introduced innovative solutions to address the adverse impacts of climate change, tackle youth economic empowerment, support livelihood opportunities and recovery for displaced people in conflict and climate-impacted areas, and strengthen the national social protection system. This alignment ensures strategic objectives are met and broadens outreach to previously underserved areas.



Population: 45.5 million
(Iraq census 2024)

2022 Human Development Index: 128
out of 193 (medium)

Poverty rate: 17.5% (Ministry of
Planning, World Bank, 2024)

1.1million IDPs (IOM)
304,409 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- WFP provided e-vouchers for food commodities to over 4,000 resident beneficiaries (1,065 households) in the Al-Amal Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Jed'ah 1 Centre) in Ninewa Governorate. Additionally, WFP assisted over 38,000 Syrian refugees in nine camps across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). Furthermore, WFP provided cash assistance to over 9,000 individuals (1,938 households) without civil documentation in Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Diyala, and Babel governorates.

Economic Empowerment, Livelihoods and Climate

- On 6 February, WFP and the Ministry of Environment (MoEN) signed a Letter of Endorsement (LoE) for a joint mangrove plantation carbon sequestering project in Basra under the Government's low-carbon economy programme. The LoE enables WFP to formalize project registration in carbon markets, engage climate finance investors, and implement mangrove afforestation and conservation to enhance carbon sequestration and ecosystem resilience.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), WFP conducted a training of trainers (ToT) for 55 staff members from various local directorates on water conservation and management. The trainers who participated in the ToT will further share their knowledge with smallholder farmers and Water User Organizations (WUOs) members to maximize the impact.
- WFP collaborated with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) under the Smallholder Agricultural Revitalization Project (SARP) to assist 3,000 youth in Qadisiya, ThiQar, Muthanna, and Missan governorates with off-farm technical and vocational educational training (TVET). The training equips participants with the technical skills for market-relevant income-generating livelihoods.
- In collaboration with the local government in Basra, WFP conducted a mangrove restoration workshop, announcing the planting of 200,000 seedlings in tidal flat zones.

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

Photo Capture: WFP Country Director Mageed Yahia and H.E. the Minister of Environment, Dr. Halo Al-Askari, signed the Letter of Endorsement on Nature-based Solutions to leverage the global carbon market.

Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – June 2025)		
Total requirements (USD)	Total received (USD)	Percentage Funded
668 million	384 million	53 percent
2025 Requirements (USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (March-August 2025)
47 million (Ongoing budget revision)		13.6 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 PDS modernization and strengthening the safety net component of the government social protection system.

- WFP, in collaboration with MoEN and the United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), organized a national workshop on disaster tracking system to improve Iraq’s disaster data recording and analysis using the “DesInventar” system. The session included hands-on exercises, discussions on data governance, and the creation of a roadmap for the national tracking system.
- WFP wrapped up the “Promoting Adaptation through Localized Methods” (PALM) programme bootcamp in Erbil, supporting climate-smart agriculture startups. The five-day workshop readied participants for a four-month programme offering up to USD 25,000 in funding, mentorship, and access to WFP network. The event

included startups, WFP teams, innovation consultants, and ecosystem partners advocating climate solutions.

- Together with the University of Sulaymaniyah, WFP organized a workshop on constructed wetlands to explore sustainable wastewater treatment solutions. The event included presentations, discussions on wetland design, nature-based solutions (NbS), and environmental sustainability.
- WFP, in collaboration with MoWR and local authorities, is progressing the implementation of NbS to treat effluent wastewater in Missan governorate, with active participation from local communities.
- Under the Zero Tillage Initiative, WFP, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DoA), conducted sensitization sessions for 36 farmers across ten districts in Ninawa to promote zero-tillage planting. Additionally, WFP completed a barley hydroponic training for 30 farmers in Diyala, enhancing production methods and water resource management.

School Feeding

- WFP conducted a 2-day Systems Approach for Better Education Results (SABER) workshop in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Representations from various ministerial stakeholders attended the workshop.

Social Protection

- WFP, in collaboration with government stakeholders at both federal and Kurdistan region levels, conducted workshops on establishing a Business Transformation Unit (BTU) as part of the Single Registry Project in Iraq. Key discussions covered defining technical requirements and governance and developing a roadmap under the Government's supervision.

Monitoring

- WFP, in collaboration with the Commission for Statistics and Geographical Information System (CSGIS) and Kurdistan Region Statistical Office (KRSO), facilitated a workshop to finalize the food security analysis for the Iraq Household Socio-Economic Survey (IHSES) 2023-2024, which was endorsed and launched on 24 February. The November 2024 census showed a positive trend, with a poverty rate drop from 23 percent to 17.5 percent, while unemployment declined from 16.5 percent to 14 percent by year-end.
- In February, WFP conducted 54 monitoring visits, encompassing 15 cash-out distribution points for CBT beneficiaries and Syrian Refugees, one for economic empowerment projects, 37 for rural livelihood initiatives, and a visit to one shop. Additionally, WFP conducted 86 monitoring interviews with beneficiaries.

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.