



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Iraq

Country Brief
March 2025

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

In a strategic move, WFP Iraq transitioned from crisis response to resilience building and long-term sustainable development. This transition is underpinned by a comprehensive understanding of Iraq's political, security, socio-economic, environmental, and human capital development landscape. 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)

In Numbers



15,276 people assisted

USD 523,444 in cash-based transfers made

USD 14.9 million six months (April –
September 2025) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- WFP provided e-vouchers to over 4,000 resident beneficiaries (1,186 households) in the Al-Amal Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Jed'ah 1 Centre) in Ninewa Governorate. Additionally, WFP provided cash assistance (CBT) to over 9,000 individuals (1,936 households) without civil documentation in Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Diyala, and Babel Governorates.

Economic Empowerment, Livelihoods and Climate

- As part of the climate adaptation and agricultural practices activities, WFP rehabilitated 100 km of irrigation canal systems in returnee areas in Salah Al-Din Governorate, benefiting over 600 returnees and 100 local workers. Additionally, an awareness campaign reached 300 rural community members, highlighting the importance of maintaining clean and functional canals to ensure sustainable water management and enhance agricultural productivity.
- In collaboration with the Agricultural Research Station (ARS) of the Department of Agriculture in Anbar's Ramadi District, WFP conducted a 7-days training for 70 farmers to strengthen their capacity in identifying and managing plant diseases, while promoting modern agricultural practices.
- To combat desertification in western Anbar, WFP collaborated with the Directorate of Forestry and Combating Desertification (DoFCD) to support an afforestation campaign, planting 12,000 trees in Al-Jabha Oasis with the participation of 20 workers, benefiting 120 individuals from the local community. The initiative aims to enhance climate resilience, improve agricultural practices, and support local communities.
- WFP completed a barley hydroponic training course for 30 farmers in Diyala Governorate, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture. This foundational training aims to enhance farmers' production methods and improve water resource management.

Contact info: Aseel Al-Khattab (aseel.alkhattab@wfp.org)

Representative: Mageed Yahia

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

Photo Capture: local workers rehabilitating irrigation
canals in Salah Al-Din Governorate

Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – June 2025)		
Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
688 million	393 million	58 percent
2025 Requirements (In USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April-September 2025)
46.7 million (ongoing budget revision)		14.9 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 Iraq 2024 Annual Country Report

- WFP, in collaboration with the Governor’s office in Basra Governorate, announced the plantation of 200,000 mangrove seedlings in identified plantation zones in the tidal flat region. This is a part of an overall plan to plant a total of 95 million mangrove seedlings by 2029, jointly with government partners.
- Under rural livelihood and economic empowerment activities, WFP introduced the first climate risk insurance programme in the MENA region to farmers, a de-risking tool for Shariah-compliant microcredit. In Mosul city, 295 farmers received

training on the benefits of this insurance for the 2025 planting season. The training covered key topics such as climate risks, including drought and heatwaves, and the role of insurance in protecting livelihoods.

- Under the [SheCan initiative](#), WFP Innovation Accelerator promotes financial inclusion by enhancing access to sustainable finance products for smallholder farmers and micro-entrepreneurs, especially women. WFP delivered in-person training to 39 participants in Kerbala Governorate. The training covered financial inclusion and entrepreneurship.

Social Protection

- WFP delivered a presentation on Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs’ social protection personnel. This followed the Government’s approval of a 10–15 percent discount in supermarkets for social safety net (SSN) beneficiaries during Ramadan. The presentation focused on creating a nutrition-sensitive food list for different age groups and promoting healthy dietary choices. It also emphasized the importance of nutritious food and access to hygiene products to support overall health.
- Additionally, WFP is collaborating with the World Bank to enhance partnerships and deepen collaboration on social protection activities, including poverty research, food security, and the impact of social safety nets.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted eight surveys and verification exercises to facilitate beneficiary selection for resilience and livelihood activities.
- WFP conducted 46 monitoring visits, covering 13 cash-out distribution points for CBT beneficiaries, 2 livelihood initiatives, 30 climate change initiatives, and 1 shop in addition to 69 monitoring interviews with beneficiaries.

Challenges

WFP’s General Food Assistance programme, supporting 4,700 residents of Al Amal centre, 38,500 Syrian refugees, and 9,000 individuals without civil documentation, is facing severe funding shortages. Without urgent support, assistance under this programme may be forced to end starting from May 2025. WFP’s strategic shift from humanitarian to development assistance requires multi-year and flexible funding to ensure a full transition and 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, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, private donors, the United Kingdom, UN Agencies, the United States, and the World Bank.