



World Food Programme

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WFP Iraq Country Brief May 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 is transitioning 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.



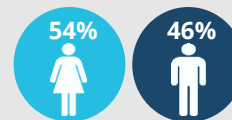
Population 46. **118 million**
(Iraq census 2024)

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



11,293 People assisted

USD 347,958 cash-based transfers made

USD 24.7 million six months (June – November
2025) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- WFP provided e-vouchers to over 4,940 residents (1,299 households) in the Al-Amal Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Jed'ah 1 Centre) in Ninewa Governorate. In addition, WFP provided cash assistance to over 6,353 individuals (1,279 households) without civil documentation in Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Diyala, and Babel Governorates.
- Urgent funding is required for WFP's General Food Assistance (GFA) programme. Without additional support, the assistance will be forced to end in August 2025. WFP's shift from humanitarian to development assistance requires multi-year and flexible funding for a full transition bringing sustainable impact.
- The current Country Strategic Plan (CSP) has been extended in time to allow for necessary adjustments, allowing time to considering implications of funding forecast on activities and working towards increased investment/ownership from the Government of Iraq. New CSP will be presented at the Executive Board in February 2026.
- On 28 May 2025, a European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) donor delegation visited a direct cash distribution site in Mosul, Ninewa Governorate. The delegation observed the cash distribution process firsthand and engaged in a focus group discussion (FGD), which offered insights into the assistance's impact and the beneficiaries' experiences.

Economic Empowerment, Livelihood, and Climate

- From 24 to 26 May 2025, WFP participated in the Fifth Baghdad International Water Conference, which convened regional and international experts to address pressing water challenges in Iraq and the Middle East. The conference emphasized the critical need for sustainable water management, regional cooperation, and technological innovation. It also launched an initiative to preserve the Tigris and Euphrates and coordinate regional efforts to combat water scarcity. WFP participated in a series of discussion panels, including innovative water solutions, climate resilience, nature-based solutions, water circularity, and the importance of water resilience in Iraq.

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Photo Capture: A snapshot from the EW4All National Workshop.

- During the conference, WFP announced the release of the National Drought Risk Management Framework for Iraq, developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources (MoA&WR) in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI), and the Ministry of Environment (MoEN). This framework aims to support MoWR and MoA&WR in establishing a reliable data storage system (DSS) to inform decision-making, conduct surveys on drought impact on groundwater and marshlands, and develop a drought risk map for Iraq.

WFP Country Strategy

Gender and Age Marker

4

Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – June 2025)		
Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
688 million	397 million	42 percent
2025 Requirements (In USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June – November 2025)
47 million*		24.7 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.

- On 19 and 20 May, WFP, along with the United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Meteorological

- Organization, the International Telecommunication Union, and international humanitarian partners, organized the Early Warning for All (EW4All) National Workshop, marking the formal launch of the UN's Global EW4All initiative. The two-day workshop laid the groundwork for initiating data collection, stakeholder mapping, and planning for Iraq's national roadmap toward universal early warning coverage by 2027.
- On 25 May, WFP completed the rehabilitation of the Malta Nursery in Duhok governorate and handed it over to MoA&WR of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI). The project increased the nursery's annual production from 300,000 to one million saplings. It also made other infrastructural improvements to support the Kurdistan Regional Government in maintaining the nursery and ensuring plant survival.
- WFP supports developing and finalizing Local Adaptation Plans (LAPs) in six priority governorates (Salahaddin, Nineveh, Diyala, Muthanna, Basra, and Missan). The LAP exercise aims to identify and prioritize climate adaptation interventions tailored to each governorate's specific risks and vulnerabilities. In close coordination with the Ministry of Environment, WFP facilitated four LAP validation meetings to secure endorsement toward national approval and integration into Iraq's National Adaptation Plan (NAP).
- Under the SheCan initiative, an economic empowerment programme designed to enhance access to financial services, entrepreneurship, and livelihoods, WFP, in collaboration with its two partners, Vitas and Baghdad Women Association (BWA), provided loans to 33 participants in Kerbala, Basra, and ThiQar governorates. In parallel, BWA launched community engagement training in these governorates to strengthen local participation and awareness.
- As part of its Water User Association (WUA) initiative, which aims to improve water governance, coordination, and sustainable resource management within an integrated Water-Energy-Food framework, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources and key stakeholders, supported 155 participants in Ninewa and Diyala governorates through training and the provision of modern irrigation systems to ensure effective water resource management.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted 30 monitoring visits, covering six cash-out distribution points for cash beneficiaries and Syrian refugees, 22 climate change initiatives, and two shops in addition to 49 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, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, private donors, the United Kingdom, UN Agencies, the United States, and the World Bank.