



World Food Programme

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LIVES



## WFP Iraq

### Country Brief June 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.



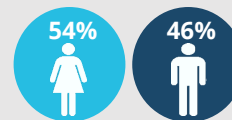
Population: **46.1 million**  
(Iraq census 2024)

2023 Human Development Index: 126  
out of 193 (medium)

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

**1.03 million** IDPs (IOM)  
**301,670** Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

### In Numbers



**54,574** People assisted

**USD 1.3 million** cash-based transfers made

**USD 8.6 million** six months (July – December 2025) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

#### General Food Assistance

- In June 2025, WFP concluded its food assistance to over **38,000 Syrian refugees** across nine camps, following the final cash distribution, due to funding shortfalls. WFP informed refugees via SMS messages, camp management, and community consultations. **Urgent funding is needed to resume food assistance for refugees beyond June 2025 and sustain assistance for Al-Amal residents beyond December 2025.**
- WFP provided e-vouchers to over 6,000 resident beneficiaries (1,705 households) in the Al-Amal Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Jed'ah 1 Centre) in Ninewa Governorate. In addition, WFP provided cash assistance to over 8,000 individuals (1,791 households) without civil documentation in Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Diyala, and Babel Governorates.
- On 25 June 2025, WFP participated in a UN mission to Al-Amal Rehabilitation Centre in Ninewa Governorate. The delegation was led by the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) and UN Resident Coordinator, Mr. Ghulam Mohammad Isaczai. During the visit, WFP provided a briefing on its monthly blanket cash assistance, including beneficiary registration, distribution methodology, and the overall cash delivery process.

#### Economic Empowerment, Livelihoods and Climate Action

- In June, WFP completed key nature-based solutions projects in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) to enhance water management and climate resilience. These include an entirely constructed wetland system in Bazian City in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, a completed collaborative pond in Sarsink City in Duhok Governorate, and groundwater recharge gabions in Akre City, Duhok. All activities were implemented on time and in coordination with government partners, with the Government expressing interest in scaling up efforts.
- As part of its efforts to restore and rehabilitate ecosystems, WFP provided technical training to staff from the Ministry of Water Resources on phytotechnology and conducted site visits to the Al-Afra constructed wetland in Missan Governorate. The project aims to restore biodiversity and combat land

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/iraq](http://www.wfp.org/countries/iraq)

**Photo Capture:** WFP and KRI Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources during a joint site visit to the Artificial Groundwater Recharge Gabion in Akre, Duhok Governorate.

## Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – February 2026)

| Total Requirements (USD) | Total Received (USD) | Percentage Funded   |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 688 million              | 392 million          | 61 percent  |
| 2025 Requirements (USD)  |                      | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (USD) (July-December 2025) |
| 46.7 million             |                      | 8.6 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.

degradation. In addition, WFP finalized and handed over the site to the University of Missan.

- On 26 June 2025, WFP participated in a high-level joint mission to the Tanjero River in Sulaymaniyah governorate. The mission focused on addressing river pollution and its environmental impact in the Kurdistan region and countrywide, while promoting coordination among key stakeholders. WFP's crucial contribution involved providing technical support to the Directorate of Environment, including the maintenance and functional testing of chemicals, as well as the supply of essential components for water quality analysis. This support is part of an effort to strengthen pollution

monitoring capabilities, coordinate data collection, and enable informed actions to safeguard the river's ecosystem.

- WFP, in coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), completed the installation of 10 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS). To date, WFP has supported the rehabilitation of 32 AWS in total, with 17 stations fully installed and the installation of the remaining 15 currently in progress. Concurrently, WFP and MoA are developing two training programs aimed at strengthening the technical capacity of MoA and other relevant ministries, with a specific focus on impact-based forecasting.
- In June, WFP launched the initiative of "Promoting Adaptation through Localized Methods" (PALM) to support climate adaptation through locally driven innovation. The project offers USD 25,000 grants to Iraqi startups in biannual cycles. A mushroom company was selected to train 50 farmers in Ninewa on mushroom cultivation, providing inputs and technical support. Implementation began with data collection from 200 farmers, ahead of training.
- In collaboration with the Basra Gas Company (BGC), WFP completed the installation of 68 aquaponic units in Basra's Khor Al-Zubair and Rumaila districts, with efforts underway to reach a target of 80 units by the end of July 2025. Coordination with BGC is ongoing to monitor installation progress and ensure operational readiness, including the provision of plants, fish, and any environmental adjustments.
- WFP, in collaboration with Agricultural Extension Centres, trained over 1,100 farmers and extension staff across Ninewa, Baghdad, Anbar, Salahaddin, Diyala, Basra, and Thi-Qar governorates. Trainings focused on modern irrigation, clean energy, water-saving techniques, agricultural waste recycling, and climate adaptation. Additionally, on 22 June, WFP launched 12 extension training courses in Basra and Thi-Qar, for 20 participants each and monitored through follow-up visits.

## Monitoring

WFP conducted 37 monitoring visits, covering 15 cash-out distribution points for CBT beneficiaries and Syrian refugees, 21 climate change initiatives, and one shop in addition to 77 monitoring interviews with beneficiaries.

## Challenges

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.*