



World Food Programme

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WFP Iraq

Country Brief
July 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)
340,847 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

In Numbers



9,447 people assisted

USD 276,384 cash-based transfers made

USD 11.7 million six months (August 2025 – January 2026) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- WFP provided e-vouchers to over **6,000** resident beneficiaries (1,644 households) in the Al-Amal Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Jed'ah 1 Centre) in Ninewa Governorate. Moreover, WFP provided cash assistance (CBT) to over **3,000** individuals (708 households) without civil documentation in Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Diyala, and Babel Governorates. **WFP requires additional funding to sustain this life-saving assistance for vulnerable people beyond April 2026.**

Economic Empowerment, Livelihood, and Climate

- As part of its efforts to promote climate-smart agriculture, WFP completed the installation of solar-powered pivot sprinklers at the Al-Dawwar Agricultural Research Station in Anbar, serving 80 donums of agricultural land. This support is part of WFP's broader efforts to strengthen the station's capacity to boost the productivity and resilience of key national crops, including wheat, barley, maize, and alfalfa.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources, is supporting the Water User Associations to promote sustainable and efficient agricultural practices across Iraq. In Ninewa, this partnership provided 19 shredders and 13 zero-tillage seeders to smallholder farmers, alongside training delivered through the Directorate of Agriculture. Similar initiatives have been completed in Kerbala, Salahaddin, Diyala, Najaf, Wassit, Diwaniya, and Babil. In the southern governorates of Basra, Missan, and Dhi-Qar, the programme is currently underway, focusing on distributing shredders and laser levelling equipment to improve water efficiency and land preparation among participants.
- As part of the Climate Risk Insurance (CRI) programme, a financial tool that delivers timely payouts to help vulnerable communities recover from climate-related events, WFP delivered a sensitization session to 316 farmers in Ninewa governorate in preparation for their CRI coverage.
- Under its activities to restore and rehabilitate ecosystems, WFP provided farmers with compost production tools (shredders) in six governorates: Baghdad, Salahaddin, Najaf, Kerbala, Diyala, and Babil.

Photo Capture: Solar-Powered sprinklers at Al-Dawwar Agricultural Research Station in Anbar governorate.

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Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – February 2026)		
Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
713 million	392 million	43 percent
2025 Requirements (In USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2025 -January 2026)
45.5 million*		11.7 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.

This approach reduces waste, enriches soil, and promotes more sustainable and resilient farming practices.

- WFP delivered one ton of biochar fertilizer to the Ninewa Department of Agriculture to support testing and certification for potential wider use, introducing biochar as a sustainable soil enhancer to improve soil health and promote climate-smart agriculture.
- WFP completed the distribution and installation of 100 barley sprouting units to support buffalo breeders in the marshland areas in Basra and Nasiriyah. These hydroponic systems enable the production of high-quality green fodder with minimal water requirements.
- In partnership with Basra Gas Company (BGC), WFP finalized the installation of 63 out of 80 hydroponics

units, with the handover to farmers currently in progress, supporting innovative, resource-efficient, and climate-smart farming techniques.

- WFP is coordinating with the Basra local government to prepare for the upcoming mangrove planting season (September–December 2025), during which 650,000 seedlings will be planted, including 500,000 seedlings provided by the Government.

Social Protection

- WFP, in collaboration with the government counterparts, finalized the Single Registry initiative in federal Iraq. The implementation process is expected to start in the first week of August.
- In collaboration with the Authority for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and UNICEF, WFP launched the implementation phase of a project aimed at strengthening information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure to improve service delivery.

Partnership / Advocacy

- WFP participated in the 2nd MENA Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action in Dubai from 29 to 31 July 2025. During the event, WFP engaged in discussions on impact-based forecasting and early action planning. The platform also highlighted innovative financing and best practices to scale up anticipatory approaches.

Monitoring

- WFP released an outcome monitoring report of the Jousour Programme (2017–2024), which supports vulnerable Iraqi youth with digital, business, and English skills to enhance their employment opportunities. The report demonstrated positive results, with 43 percent of participants securing jobs, and 76 percent of those reporting higher income linked to the training. Over 89 percent confirmed the skills matched market needs, and 41 percent highlighted Business English as key for career growth. The report recommended expanding job-matching and mentorship, addressing connectivity and financial barriers, and strengthening soft skills.
- WFP conducted 51 monitoring visits, covering eight cash-out distribution points for CBT beneficiaries, 40 climate change initiatives, one livelihood visit, and two shops in addition to 48 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.

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.