# Figure 4.10

# History of school meals in Iraq

# 1932-1983

School meal programmes are first established in Iraq.

### 2004-2010

Programmes are disrupted due to prolonged conflict.

# 2011-2012

WFP and the Ministry of Education resume school meals implementation, targeting 550,000 children in 13 governorates with high-energy biscuits.

## 2018

In West Mosul, a localized school meals model is launched, providing healthy, locally sourced meals to 90,000 children.

## 2015

A pilot programme introduces more varied and nutritious meals, including dairy, fruits and local foods - a turning point in programme design.

### 2013-2014

The programme targeted 565,000 children across 11 districts.

## 2019-2020

The programme expands to 11 districts, delivering fresh, nutritious meals to approximately 330,000 students.

# 2020-2021

Implementation is temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

# 2021-2022

The programme rebounds, reaching 450,000 students in 13 of Iraq's poorest districts.

## 2023

A major milestone: WFP hands over full programme management to the Government of Iraq. The school meal programme is delivered through national systems, reaching 775,686 children in 25 of the country's poorest districts. The government includes school meals in the national budget and takes over full funding and implementation.

# 2022-2023

Improvements in programme design and delivery benefit 462,457 students in 1,401 schools.

# October 2023

Iraq submits national commitments to the School Meals Coalition.

### 2024

The government allocates US\$42.4 million (55.6 billion Iraqi dinars) for school meals. The national programme reaches 13 percent of primary school children and generates over 1,800 job opportunities.

### 2025

Iraq's first national School Meals Policy is approved by the Minister of Education, developed with broad inter-ministerial and international collaboration, and pending final endorsement. School meals are now firmly embedded in Iraq's Education Sector Plan (2022–2031), National Development Plan (2024–2028) and National Strategy for School Health (2024–2030) - signalling long-term national commitment and integration.