



World Food Programme

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WFP Iraq Country Brief August 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.



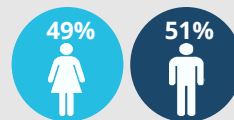
Population: **46.1 million**
(Iraq census 2024)

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

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

1.03 million IDPs (IOM)
342,818 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

In Numbers



10,624 People assisted

USD 287,662 cash-based transfers made

USD 11.3 million net funding requirements
(September 2025 – February 2026)

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- WFP provided e-vouchers to over 6,000 resident beneficiaries (1,748 households) in Al-Amal Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Jed'ah 1 Centre) in Ninewa Governorate. Additionally, 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.

Economic Empowerment, Livelihood, and Climate

- In collaboration with the World Bank, WFP launched the "Communities Inspired Voices for Vital Climate Action (CIVIC)" project, which aims to promote community-driven climate resilience in Iraq. The project will be implemented from September to December 2025 across Basra, Muthana, Duhok, Ninewa, and Kerbala Governorates.
- WFP and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) supported a technical workshop in Baghdad focused on enhancing risk knowledge to strengthen Iraq's multi-hazard early warning systems. The workshop gathered key national stakeholders to map legal and institutional frameworks, identify gaps in risk data and information sharing, and explore opportunities to integrate climate, disaster risk, and early warning initiatives. The outcomes will guide the development of a more coordinated, impact-based early warning system for Iraq.
- On 27–28 August 2025, WFP hosted a joint workshop in Basra on carbon credits and Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) for the mangrove project, attended by a delegation from the General Company for Carbon Economics (GCCE) and the local Mangrove Committee. The workshop resulted in plans to organize a technical training on MRV and carbon credits for representatives of the Ministry of Environment (MoEn), GCCE, and the Mangrove committee members. The training will focus on project registration, financing options, and data collection and verification. These efforts aim to strengthen sustainable management and monitoring of the mangrove restoration initiative.

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

Representative: Mageed Yahia

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

Photo Capture: Farmers in Iraq participate in a WFP-led training session to strengthen their skills in climate change adaptation, empowering communities with sustainable techniques to build resilience and improve agricultural productivity.

Iraq Country Strategic Plan (Jan 2020 – February 2026)		
Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
713 million	393 million	44 percent
2025 Requirements (In USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Sep.2025-Feb.2026)
45.5 million*		11.3 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 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 finalized the installation of 100 barley sprouting units across the marshlands of Basra, ThiQar, and Missan, benefiting 148 smallholder farmers and herders and promoting community ownership and equitable access to green fodder.
- As part of its climate-smart agriculture efforts, WFP supported Water User Associations (WUAs) across Salahaldin, Ninewa, Najaf, Kerbala, Wassit, Babylon, Diwaniyah, Basra, ThiQar, and Missan governorates, through equipment provision and training on WUA management, water efficiency, and laser levelling technology. The introduction of zero-tillage technology in Kerbala marks a key step toward improving soil health, conserving water, and enhancing resilience. Moreover, WFP launched the second round of compost production training in Karbala, Salahaldin, Anbar, Diyala,

and Babil governorates, reaching 242 participants (182 male, 60 female). The sessions focused on sustainable waste management, including shredder operation and composting techniques, with practical demonstrations to ensure hands-on learning.

- To strengthen national institutional capacities on climate information systems, WFP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, advanced the third phase of rehabilitating Iraq's Agro-Meteorological Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) network. Fifteen AWS units were delivered for installation across targeted governorates by trained Ministry staff. This phase will complete the operationalization of 32 stations countrywide, enhancing Iraq's climate data infrastructure to support evidence-based agricultural planning and resilience.

Social Protection

- On 25 August, WFP, in coordination with the Government counterparts, arranged a kick-off meeting to officially launch the operational phase of Iraq's Single Registry initiative with following the formal appointment of a government project management team comprising representatives from the Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and the National Centre for Digital Transformation, who will lead and coordinate the implementation process.

Monitoring

- WFP released the Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) report for the CBT programme, supporting 1,806 crisis-affected households, primarily female-headed, lacking civil documentation. Findings indicated that the assistance helped to stabilize food security, with 89 percent of households reporting acceptable food consumption scores and 98 percent maintaining manageable food expenditure. However, continued reliance on coping strategies highlights persistent vulnerabilities among the most at-risk groups.
- WFP conducted 27 monitoring visits, covering five cash-out distribution points for CBT beneficiaries, 21 climate change initiatives, one shop, in addition to 50 monitoring interviews with beneficiaries.

Challenges

WFP's strategic shift from humanitarian to development assistance requires multi-year and flexible funding to ensure a complete 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.