



World Food Programme

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WFP Iraq Country Brief September 2025

Operational Context

Improvements in the security environment and political stability have opened pathways for progress and development. However, the country continues to face significant challenges due to the adverse effects of climate change, which severely impact agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods. Key environmental stressors, including increased salinization, desertification, reduced water flows in the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and declining rainfall, have led to the degradation of 12 million hectares of arable land, drastically affecting agricultural production and heighten the risks of food insecurity particularly among vulnerable communities.

In response, WFP Iraq is strategically transitioning its focus 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 has introduced innovative context-specific solutions to address the adverse impacts of climate change, promote youth economic empowerment, support livelihood opportunities and recovery for displaced people in conflict and climate-impacted areas, and strengthen the national social protection system. These efforts aim to tackle the root cause of food insecurity and poverty, while building the capacity of national institutions and communities to lead and sustain progress.



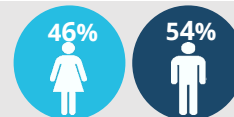
Population: **46.1 million**
(Iraq census 2024)

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

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

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

In Numbers



10,598 People assisted in September

USD 279,193 cash-based transfers made In September

USD 10.4 million for the next six months (October 2025 – March 2026) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- WFP provided e-vouchers to over 6,000 beneficiaries (1,690 households) residing in the Al-Amal Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Jed'ah 1 Centre) in Ninewa Governorate. Additionally, WFP provided cash assistance to nearly 3,000 individuals (666 households) without civil documentation in Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Diyala, and Babel governorates.

Economic Empowerment, Livelihood, and Climate

- On 23 September 2025, WFP and the Mangrove Plantation Committee in Basra Governorate reviewed progress and set priorities for advancing the mangrove plantation programme. During the current planting season (September–December 2025), approximately 700,000 seedlings are planned, bringing the total number planted in 2024–2025 to over one million seedlings, contributing to environmental restoration and coastal protection.
- On 21 September, WFP launched a training for Water User Association members in Ninewa Governorate on Zero-Tillage (ZT) techniques and maintenance of related equipment. This initiative supports WFP's efforts to promote climate-smart agriculture and improve livelihoods through asset creation.
- On 18 September, WFP organized a kick-off workshop under the World Bank-WFP "Communities Inspired Voices for Vital Climate Action (CIVIC)" initiative, which aims to strengthen community-driven climate resilience in Diyala governorate. The event convened approximately 22 representatives from key government institutions to plan a climate perception and knowledge campaign aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and promoting community-centered climate action.
- On the same day, WFP, in collaboration with Government representatives from Diyala's districts, hosted a workshop to foster dialogue on climate resilience and share local challenges and adaptation strategies. The workshop concluded with a co-design exercise to develop tailored climate awareness campaigns in the Governorate.

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Photo Capture: A capture of the 5-day entrepreneurship training in Qadisiya Governorate in partnership with MoLSA and Makers of Baghdad.

Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – February 2026)

Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
713 million	394 million	47 percent
(2025 Requirements) (In USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Oct. 2025 - March 2026)	
45.5 million*	10.4million	

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.

- On 14–15 September 2025, WFP partnered with the Association of Agricultural Engineers in Diyala Governorate, to deliver a two-day climate awareness session for 25 youth participants (14 males and 11 females). The session focused on climate-related knowledge and skills, promoting green job opportunities, and encouraging youth engagement in digital advocacy, green entrepreneurship, and climate resilience innovation challenges.
- As part of its youth economic empowerment activities, WFP launched a five-day entrepreneurship training in Diwaniyah, Qadisiya Governorate. In partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) and project

partner, Makers of Baghdad, the training engaged 97 youth participants. The sessions focused on business development, startup planning, and mentorship. Early feedback reflected strong engagement and relevance of the training content for participants' aspirations.

- In September 2025, WFP advanced the third phase of its SheCan initiative in Sulaymaniyah Governorate, which aims to empower rural women and vulnerable populations through financial inclusion, entrepreneurship and community engagement. The phase engaged 17 rural women in entrepreneurship and financial literacy training, including a dedicated session for those exploring loan opportunities.

Social Protection

- Following the launch of the operational phase of the Single Registry project on 25 August 2025, WFP advanced its support through targeted capacity-building activities throughout September. These included a Knowledge Exchange Workshop on Vendor Management at the National Centre for Digital Transformation, aimed at enhancing operational efficiency. Additionally, a site survey for the Project Management Office at the National Data Centre was completed under the supervision of the Commission for Statistics and Geographic Information Systems (CSGIS), in preparation for the Single Registry's implementation phase.
- WFP also facilitated a Synergy Workshop in collaboration with UNFPA and development partners to explore integration with the Civil Registry. The workshop provided support to Government officials and partners in enhancing information technology for managing the Public Distribution System modernization and strengthening the safety net component of the government social protection system

Monitoring

In September, WFP conducted 27 monitoring visits across various operational sites. These included six cash-out distribution points for cash assistance beneficiaries, 18 climate resilience initiatives, two locations focused on livelihood economic empowerment activities, and one retail shop. To complement these visits, WFP carried out 50 beneficiary interviews to gather feedback and assess the quality and effectiveness of ongoing activities and ensuring accountability.

Challenges

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