



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Iraq

Country Brief October 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.



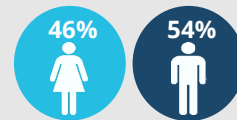
Population **46.118 million**
(Iraq census 2024)

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

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

1.03 million IDPs (IOM)
346,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq

In Numbers



11,212 People assisted in October

USD 0.3 million cash-based transfers made In October

USD 8 million for the next six months (November 2025 – April 2026) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- WFP provided e-vouchers to over 6,994 returnees (1,903 households) residing in the Al-Amal Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Jed'ah 1 Centre) in Ninewa Governorate. Additionally, WFP provided cash assistance to nearly 4,058 individuals without civil documentation (927 households) in Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Diyala, and Babel Governorates.

Economic Empowerment, Livelihood, and Climate

- In October, WFP continues to promote climate-smart agriculture across Iraq. In Ninewa Governorate, WFP partnered with the Department of Agriculture to train 76 smallholder farmers on the operation and maintenance of Zero Tillage Seeders and Shredders. The two-day training combined theoretical instruction with hands-on field practice to enhance mechanization and sustainable land management. Meanwhile, in Salah Al-Din and Diwaniya Governorates, WFP initiated coordination with 100 farmers and suppliers to begin delivering and installing drip irrigation systems. These systems aim to boost water efficiency and crop productivity in drought-affected areas, supporting more resilient food production systems.
- In collaboration with Basra Gas Company (BGC), WFP continues to support 80 smallholder farmers in Al-Zubair district in Basra Governorate, through the introduction of smart agriculture techniques and assets, WFP has installed 60 out of 80 hydroponic units, with the remaining units expected to be finalized by the end of October.

Social Protection

- WFP collaborated with the Government of Iraq to facilitate their participation in the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) held in Doha in early November. WFP, alongside ILO, UNICEF and the Resident Coordinator's Office held a two-day national consultation workshop with the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to align priorities and streamline Iraq's contribution to the summit.

Contact info: Saif al-Tatooz (saif.altatooz@wfp.org)

Representative: Amit Singh

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

Photo Caption: Iraqi workers dig water basins for smart agriculture – drip irrigation systems in Babel Governorate

Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – February 2026)

Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
713 million	396 million	55 percent
2025 Requirements (In USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Nov.2025-Apr. 2026)
45.5 million		8 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 is collaborating with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to support the development of the People with Disability (PWD) Management Information System (MIS) for the Federal PWD Authority. WFP is currently reviewing a draft implementation plan in response to the Ministry's request.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted a field mission to Babel Governorate to monitor completed resilience activities supporting smallholder farmers through the Agricultural (Agri-PV) solar-powered drip irrigation system. During the visit, WFP met with farmers, members of the Water Users

Association (WUA) from the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Agriculture in the governorate. Most farmers reported that, following WFP's intervention - particularly through the provision of water ponds and solar-powered infrastructure - they were able to expand their cultivated land and diversify their crops by planting various types of vegetables.

- WFP is currently engaged in the biannual outcome monitoring for Crisis Response and Resilience activities, with full support from the Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) partner, field monitors, and government counterparts.

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. For the next six months (November 2025 – April 2026), WFP requires USD 8 million to sustain its operations.

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.