



World Food Programme

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WFP Iraq Country Brief November 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.



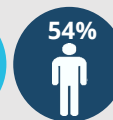
Population 46. **118 million**
(Iraq census 2024)

2022 Human Development Index: 128 out of 193 (medium)

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

1.1million IDPs (IOM)
304,409 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

In Numbers



49,000 people assisted in November

USD 1.2 million cash-based transfers made In November

USD 6.4 million for the next six months (December 2025 – May 2026) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

General Food Assistance

- WFP provided e-vouchers to over 6,680 beneficiaries (1,821 households) residing in the Al-Amal Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Jed'ah 1 Centre) in Ninewa Governorate. Additionally, WFP provided cash assistance to nearly 5,239 people without civil documentation (1,136 households) in Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Ninawa, Diyala, and Babel Governorates.
- In November, WFP provided one-time cash assistance for approximately 37,179 Syrian Refugees residing in camps. Each person received IQD 30,000 (approximately USD 23) to help them meet their immediate food needs. WFP continues to advocate for the continued support of Syrian Refugees in camps.

Economic Empowerment, Livelihood, and Climate

- In November, WFP advanced its solar-powered irrigation project in al-Diwaniyah governorate, now 85 percent completed, with final inverter installations pending. The initiative, which supports 31 small-scale farmers, represents a critical step in addressing water scarcity, reducing dependence on conventional fuel sources, and improving productivity in a climate-stressed environment.
- WFP, in collaboration with the Directorate of Agriculture in Diyala governorate and the Union of Agricultural Engineers, delivered climate-change training sessions for a total of 83 farmers, youth, and women across three districts. The training introduced practical skills in climate-smart agriculture, efficient irrigation, and adaptive farming practices, strengthening their ability to cope with water scarcity and climate stress. By engaging diverse groups and fostering local partnerships, this initiative contributes to WFP's broader strategy of building climate-resilient livelihoods and promoting sustainable food security in vulnerable agricultural communities.
- On November 14, 2025, the UN Resident Coordinator and members of the UNCT met with the Vice President of the University of Sulaymaniyah and WFP team to review the outcomes of their ongoing partnership.

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Photo Caption: WFP team monitoring farms where climate-smart, modern irrigation system is implemented in Diyala Governorate

Country Strategic Plan (January 2020 – February 2026)		
Total Requirements (In USD)	Total Received (In USD)	Percentage Funded
713 million	396 million	59 percent
2025 Requirements (In USD)		Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (Dec.2025-May 2026)
45.5 million		6.4 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

Provide institutional capacity strengthening to Government officials and partners.

Provide support to Government officials and partners in enhancing information technology for managing modernization and strengthening the safety net component of the government social protection system.

The University highlighted key achievements, including the Jousour initiative, support to Capacity Development Centers, provision of laboratory materials, and the launch of a constructed wetland pilot. Following the meeting, the delegation visited the constructed wetland, where university experts demonstrated the system's process and explained its purpose, showcasing how the project contributes to sustainable water management and resilience-building efforts.

Social Protection

- Iraq was prominently recognized as a successful model in the Second World Summit for Social Development held in Doha on 4-6 November. Iraq's delegation, supported by WFP, participated in a side event on the

'New Era' for Universal Social Protection in which the Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs presented the insights from the Iraqi experiment in a panel with Pakistan, Somalia and Timor-Leste representatives.

- Iraq's Minister of Labour and Social Affairs met with WFP delegation and presented the Government's official appreciation to WFP for positioning Iraq on the global stage and also thanked the European Union for their generous support and funding to the Social Protection Reform being conducted in Iraq.
- On 20 November, WFP held a two-day workshop in Sulaymaniah on the design of the Economic Empowerment Pathways project. The event brought together representatives from the Social Protection Authority (SPA), the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Prime Minister's Office, fostering collaboration and alignment on key design priorities.

Monitoring

During the reporting period, WFP carried out 20 monitoring visits to three cash-out distribution points serving cash assistance beneficiaries and Syrian refugees, 16 climate change initiatives and one shop. In addition, WFP conducted 28 monitoring interviews with beneficiaries.

The collection of Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) data for Syrian refugees in Kurdistan Region's camps is now completed. The FSOM for assisted beneficiaries in the Al-Amal Center is proceeding smoothly, and the results will be shared in December. The outcome monitoring for rural livelihood and climate adaptation activities, completed in 2025, is ongoing. Outcome monitoring for climate risk insurance activities is planned for early December.

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. Funding shortages remain the largest challenge to sustain WFP Iraq's operations across the country.

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.