



WFP IRAQ

COUNTRY BRIEF

February 2026

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian funding shortfalls are impacting WFP's ability to maintain assistance for vulnerable refugees. After February, monthly cash support for Syrian refugees in nine camps will be suspended, while resources are prioritized for vulnerable Iraqis. Continued donor engagement is needed to safeguard critical support for displaced populations and sustain resilience-building initiatives.
- WFP agreed with the Ministry of Education to launch a pilot School Meals initiative in poverty-affected areas in Iraq, building on lessons from WFP Jordan's successful programme, with the aim to improve school attendance rates.

IN NUMBERS



14,192 people assisted in January 2026



40.5%
Male



59.5%
Female



USD 304,000 cash transferred



USD 7.6M (Feb – July 2026) net funding requirements

Photo Caption & Credit: Inauguration of a nature-based solution project to water scarcity in southern Iraq by the Minister of Water Resources. WFP

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Recent improvements in Iraq's security environment and political stability have opened pathways for progress and development. However, the country continues to face significant challenges from the adverse effects of climate change, which severely impact agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods.

Key environmental stressors—including salinization, desertification, reduced water flows in the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, and declining rainfall—have degraded an estimated 12 million hectares of arable land. This has drastically affected agricultural production and heightened risks of food insecurity, particularly among vulnerable communities.

In response, WFP Iraq is strategically transitioning from crisis response toward resilience building, recovery and systems strengthening. This shift is underpinned by a comprehensive understanding of Iraq's political, security, socio-economic, environmental, and human capital landscape.

WFP has introduced innovative, context-specific solutions to address climate impacts, promote youth economic empowerment, support livelihoods and recovery for displaced populations, and strengthen national social protection systems. These efforts aim to tackle the root causes of food insecurity and poverty, while building the capacity of national institutions and communities to sustain progress.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

General Food Assistance (customize)

- In January, WFP provided e-vouchers to more than 6,780 beneficiaries (1,842 households) residing in Al-Amal Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Jed'ah 1 Centre) in Ninewa Governorate.
- WFP also delivered multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to nearly 7,412 beneficiaries (1,555 households) without civil documentation across Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Diyala, and Babel Governorates.
- WFP is preparing the final round of monthly cash assistance for 31,000 Syrian refugees in nine camps across the Kurdistan Region. Due to funding constraints, this support will be suspended as WFP gradually phases out this portfolio, while continuing to prioritize assistance for vulnerable Iraqis.

School-Based Assistance

- Following the successful handover of WFP's School Meals Programme to the Ministry of Education in 2024, WFP continues to provide technical advisory support to strengthen the programme. In January 2026, discussions with the Ministry resulted in an agreement on introducing a pilot initiative in Iraq, drawing on lessons from the school meals implementation experience of WFP in Jordan. The pilot will be adapted to Iraq's context, with the aim of improving school attendance rates in poverty-affected areas and further enhancing the national programme's effectiveness.

Social Protection

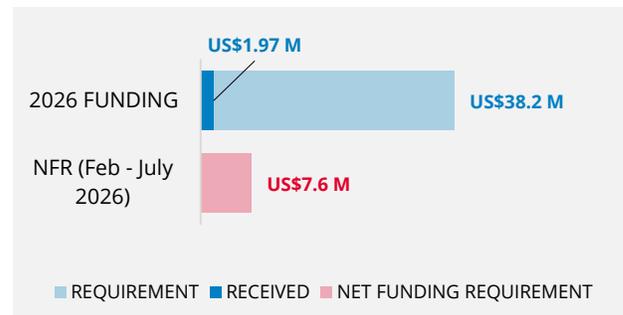
- In January, WFP Iraq, in partnership with UNICEF and ILO, supported a senior-level delegation from several key ministries to participate in a technical knowledge exchange in Oman. Funded by the European Union, the exchange provided insights into Oman's successful social protection reforms, contributing to Iraq's ongoing efforts to strengthen its national system.

Resilience and Livelihood Support

- On 26 January, WFP inaugurated its Nature-Based Solutions phytotechnology site in Missan Governorate's al-Afra. The event was attended by the Minister of Water Resources, the Governor of Missan, and other officials. The intervention uses plants to treat water contaminated with toxins and heavy metals, improving water quality for irrigation and aligning with Iraq's strategic vision for water security, climate adaptation, and biodiversity.
- WFP also provided solar-powered drip irrigation systems to 100 farmers in Salah al-Din and al-Diwaniyah governorates. This climate-smart agriculture initiative enables farmers to irrigate crops despite power shortages, strengthening resilience against water scarcity and desertification.

FUNDING OVERVIEW

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2026)



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, The United States, and The World Bank.