



## WFP Iraq

### COUNTRY BRIEF

April 2026



**45,241** people assisted in February 2026  
(53.6% female)



**14,779** people assisted in March 2026  
(58.7% female)



**USD 5.3M** required in the next six months  
(April – September 2026)

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Iraq continues to face severe climate impacts, including salinization, desertification, reduced river flows, and declining rainfall, that have degraded 12 million hectares of arable land. These pressures are undermining agricultural productivity and heightening food insecurity risks, particularly among vulnerable rural communities.
- Humanitarian funding shortfalls are impacting WFP's ability to maintain assistance. In February, monthly cash support for Syrian refugees in nine camps was concluded due to limited resources, while available funding is being prioritized for vulnerable Iraqis. Continued donor engagement is critical to safeguard support for displaced populations and sustain resilience-building initiatives.

### SITUATION OVERVIEW

- Since late February, heightened U.S.–Iran tensions have contributed to a more uncertain regional environment, with implications for economic stability. Iraq, given its geographic positioning, experienced increased pressures and security

challenges, adding complexity to its reform efforts and development trajectory, while also influencing its engagement in the broader regional context.

- The security situation temporarily affected WFP operations, limiting staff movement to critical lifesaving activities, before resuming normal operations in the second half of March. In parallel, WFP strengthened emergency preparedness to ensure operational continuity, including enhanced contingency planning, readiness measures, and coordination to enable a rapid scale-up whenever required.
- 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 in the country. This has drastically affected agricultural production and heightened risks of food insecurity, particularly among vulnerable communities.
- In response, WFP Iraq has been 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.
- To support the Government's efforts, 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.

**Reporting Period:** February and March 2026

**Photo Caption & Credit:** Shock-Responsive Social Protection workshop in which WFP shared best practices to enhance resilience, flexibility and responsiveness of national social protection systems. WFP/ Saif al-Tatooz

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### General Food Assistance

- In February, WFP provided e-vouchers to more than 6,476 beneficiaries (1,777 households (HHs)) residing in Al-Amal Rehabilitation Centre (formerly Jed'ah 1 Centre) in Ninewa Governorate, while in March, WFP Assisted 6,299 (1,741 HHs).
- WFP also delivered multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to 7,789 beneficiaries (1,629 HHs) without civil documentation across Baghdad, Salah Al-Din, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Diyala, and Babel Governorates in February. In March, WFP managed to assist 8,480 individuals (1,731 HHs) with the same modality.
- WFP provided cash assistance to 30,976 Syrian Refugee (5,392 Households) living in nine camps across the Kurdistan Region in February. This was the last round of assistance to Syrian Refugees in Iraq as WFP is phasing out this portfolio, due to dwindling funding, while continuing to prioritize assistance for vulnerable Iraqis.

### School-Based Assistance

- In February, WFP secured the official approval of the Ministry of Education for the adoption of the SABER (System Approach for Better Education Results) study. This collaboration between WFP and the World Bank since 2021, focused on enhancing the capacity of the Ministry of Education towards strengthening the national school feeding system. WFP will focus on the key outputs of the study which highlighted the need for finalizing the policy framework, securing Government funding for a national school feeding system and further enhancing the Ministry of Education's capacity to implement and scale-up the school meals programme.

### Social Protection

- In March, WFP made significant progress in its Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) portfolio, aiming to enhance Iraq's capacities in this area. Following a successful three-day workshop that brought together government representatives from different agencies to identify gaps and agree on practical solutions, some recommendations for the Country's SRSP Capacities are being drafted and currently under review ahead of the Government's endorsement.

## Resilience and Livelihood Support

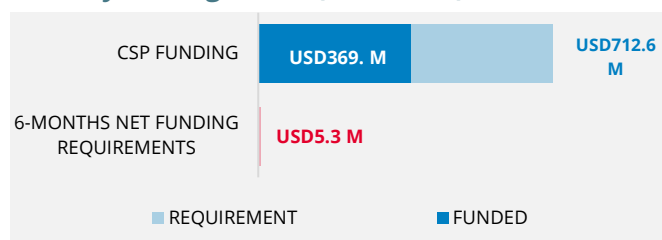
- Under the Global Affairs Canada (GAC)-funded Muruna project in southern Iraq, WFP met with the representatives of the Muthana Governorate coordination cell to review the project outcomes. In alignment with national strategies, WFP intends to develop a 1-year operational plan to address the desertification challenges at the local community level and ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders in its implementation.
- Under the AICS-funded WE-GO Women Empowerment for Green Opportunities in Iraq project, WFP is working alongside the Directorates of Agriculture and Directorates of Water Resources in Basra and Thi Qar to conduct several training sessions of Green Skills for eligible farmers.

## Cross-Cutting Issues

- In March, WFP advanced gender-responsive and safeguarding programming by completing Gender Action Plans and analyses for the Muruna and GAC Desertification projects, delivering a national protection and accountability session, drafting terms of reference for Women Advisory Groups under the GAC-funded Muruna project to strengthen women's engagement in local water governance and community-led decision-making, and submitting the 2026 PSEA Workplan.

## 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.

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