Under EMOP 20067, WFP assisted 1.5 million displaced Iraqis through Family Food Rations (FFRs) and Cash-Based Transfers (CBTs) in December 2016, as well as 167,000 people received ready-to-eat Immediate Response Rations (IRRs).

In eastern Mosul, markets are functioning and certain food prices are lower than in Erbil. The Government of Iraq’s Public Distribution System (PDS) is now functioning inside the city. As a result, WFP is no longer providing food inside eastern Mosul.

At the beginning of 2017, WFP reduced Family Food Rations (FFRs) by 50% across the country due to pipeline constraints. WFP has enough IRRs in stock to meet the immediate food needs of 1.4 million people affected by the conflict.

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In Numbers

10 million people in need of humanitarian assistance (OCHA)
18 governorates affected
3 million people displaced (IOM)
2.9 million people food insecure (WFP)
230,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

Highlights

- In December 2016, WFP provided monthly food assistance for 1.5 million people across Iraq. A further 167,000 people received ready-to-eat Immediate Response Rations (IRRs).
- In eastern Mosul, markets are functioning and certain food prices are lower than in Erbil. The Government of Iraq’s Public Distribution System (PDS) is now functioning inside the city. As a result, WFP is no longer providing food inside eastern Mosul.
- At the beginning of 2017, WFP reduced Family Food Rations (FFRs) by 50% across the country due to pipeline constraints. WFP has enough IRRs in stock to meet the immediate food needs of 1.4 million people affected by the conflict.

Situation Update

- All eastern neighbourhoods of Mosul have been declared retaken by Iraqi Security Forces. Despite this, neighbourhoods in Mosul remain insecure due to the ongoing threat of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) attacks. Markets in eastern Mosul are now functioning well and latest mVAM monitoring shows that certain food prices are lower than in Erbil. In addition the Government of Iraq's Public Distribution System (PDS) is now functioning inside the city. Therefore, WFP is no longer providing food inside eastern Mosul.

WFP is currently preparing for the Iraqi Security Forces' push to retake western Mosul from ISIL fighters. It is possible that 250,000 people from western Mosul will be moved as soon as military operations resume.

ISIL attacks on checkpoints continued, particularly in areas such as Ramadi and Fallujah. Such attacks pose a threat to humanitarian workers. WFP staff remain vigilant around checkpoints and monitor the security situation at all times.

WFP Response

- Under EMOP 200677, WFP assisted 1.5 million displaced Iraqis through Family Food Rations (FFRs) and Cash-Based Transfers (CBTs) in December 2016, as well as 167,000 with IRRs.
- As part of the regional PRRO 200987, to support Syrian refugees who have fled the conflict, WFP provides cash and e-vouchers to 65,000 Syrian refugees residing in nine camps across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I) each month.

WFP leads three inter-agency Clusters to coordinate humanitarian action on the ground. Co-led with FAO, the Food Security Cluster works with local partners to coordinate the food security response to the crisis in Iraq. By heading the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters through Special Operation 200746, WFP assists UN and NGO partners to ensure an effective logistics and telecommunications response.
**Food Assistance**

- In December 2016, 1.5 million Iraqis received WFP assistance, including 325,000 who were provided with cash-based transfers. Only families vulnerable to food insecurity are eligible for assistance, with a specific focus on households headed by women. They are targeted as work opportunities are particularly limited for women.

- The latest mobile monitoring (mVAM) bulletin will be published by the end of January 2017. This includes household interviews in liberated eastern Mosul as well as key informant interviews inside western Mosul which is still under ISIL. It will show that certain food prices in eastern Mosul are lower than in Erbil. However, people’s ability to purchase food is limited as a result of the conflict.

- WFP has enough ready-to-eat food in stock to meet the immediate food needs of 1.4 million people, including the 250,000 people expected to be affected by the offensive on western Mosul.

- At the beginning of 2017, WFP reduced Family Food Rations (FFRs) by 50% across the country due to pipeline constraints. This reduction enables WFP to manage current resources and ensure that it can meet the long-term needs of the most vulnerable. Rations are now 35kg, both inside and outside of camps.

- In December 2016, a Mosul Response food security baseline survey found that 250 families in Ninewa, Erbil and Salah al-Din Governorates lacked access to food and were using negative coping strategies prior to receiving WFP assistance. Negative coping strategies can include skipping meals and eating cheaper food of a lower quality.

**Clusters**

**Food Security Cluster (FSC)**

- The FSC received over 80 proposals for the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in Iraq. HRPs are required for any crisis needing inter-agency support. Proposals submitted by WFP covered emergency response, resilience programming and assessments.

**Logistics Cluster**

- Between the start of the Mosul offensive on 17 October 2016 and 22 January 2017, a total of 19,550 m³ of non-food items (NFIs), equivalent to 3,245 MT, was handled on behalf of 27 humanitarian organisations.

- Through the one-stop shop (OSS), the LC arranged for the customs clearance, receipt, storage and dispatch of items to humanitarian organizations through relevant clusters.

**Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)**

- The cluster provides secure telecommunications services, including communications centres, radio programming and two-way radio networks. The ETC is partnering with UNAMI to extend it’s networks around the country.

**Partnerships**

- WFP has renewed partnerships for 2017, ensuring food reaches those displaced by the current conflict, as well as Syrian refugees in camps.

- WFP continues to coordinate closely with the government’s Public Distribution System, filling food assistance gaps where necessary.

**Resourcing Update**

- WFP is in discussion with a number of donors for funding in 2017. Contributions of USD 7.1 million from Denmark and USD 16,000 from Andorra were confirmed in December 2016 and immediately programmed. These will support Iraqi IDPs in 2017.

**WFP on the ground**

- Through its ‘Communicating with Communities’ programme, WFP informed all beneficiaries that monthly food rations would be cut by 50% in January, February and March. WFP continues to monitor any feedback from those we assist and keep them updated on any changes in food provision.

- A short animated film, Living Level 3: Iraq, can now be watched online. It follows a humanitarian worker for WFP and explores hunger and fear in Iraq. A Level 3 emergency—the global humanitarian system’s classification for the most severe humanitarian crises — was declared in Iraq in 2014 and remains in place today.

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