



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Iraq Country Brief May 2022



In Numbers



252,520 people assisted

in May 2022

US\$ 5.25 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 45.1 m six months (June-November 2022) net funding requirements

Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict and impact of climate change continue to affect the lives of people of Iraq. There are currently 1.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 4.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Insecurity, lack of livelihoods, and destroyed or damaged housing hamper people's ability to return home. WFP Iraq's assistance focuses on saving lives, changing lives: supporting the Government of Iraq's social protection work towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: Zero Hunger. Iraq's progress on the SDGs has been hindered by the challenges of rebuilding infrastructure in areas affected by conflict with ISIL, economic shocks caused by COVID-19, weak institutions and governance, climate change, delayed implementation of reforms and inadequate opportunities for youth.

WFP Iraq is currently implementing the triple nexus approach of the humanitarian, development and peace. In line with this approach WFP is engaged in supporting Iraq with climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes. This paradigm shift is critical as Iraq is currently experiencing adverse effects of climate change (5th most affected country globally) especially in southern Iraq, with reduced rainfall and decreased water levels in the country's two rivers (Tigris and Euphrates) which results in increased salinity that, in turn, heavily affects agriculture.



Population: **41.2 million** (UNFPA 2021)

2020 Human Development Index: **123 out of 189 (lowest)**

Poverty rate: 24.8% (Ministry of Planning, World Bank, 2021)

1.2 million IDPs (IOM)
260,686 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

Operational Updates

- In May, WFP provided cash and food assistance to 181,957 internally displaced persons (IDPs), 66,663 refugees, and 3,900 people from vulnerable communities through resilience building initiatives.
- In continuation of its resilience-building work and changing lives, WFP's partnership with PepsiCo is providing farmers in Ninewa and Halabja with practical farming methods to plant potatoes under adverse conditions and held the next session of its Training of Trainers (ToT) course, in Penjwen. For the first time, the Ninewa and Halabja farmers met together with the agronomist trainers, ensuring the knowledge is spread to the widest audience of farmers.
- Under the National School Feeding Programme, having successfully concluded another round of school meals for the academic year 2021/2022, WFP is currently engaged in the process of handing over assets and knowledge to our partners with the Government of Iraq, who will be implementing school meals distribution for the following year with WFP's support.
- Due to the recent outbreak of conflict in Iraq's northern Sinjar region in Ninewa governorate, WFP responded to the displacement of more than 810 families from Sinjar to Duhok governorate and provided 1,630 ready to eat food packages - Immediate Response Rations (IRRs) upon their arrival in IDP camps.
- Mr. Peter Felten, Chargé d'Affaires of the German Embassy in Iraq visited a WFP resilience project in Anbar governorate alongside a delegation from the embassy. The visit highlighted the impact of WFP's work helping vulnerable communities through revitalizing agriculture and restoring livelihoods, and the team met with a number of farmers and local authorities from the Directorate of Water Resources in the governorate, to form an understanding of the continued needs and challenges.
- WFP's efforts to reform and the digitize Iraq's national Public Distribution System for food rations (PDS) continue. As of the end of May, 2,940 digital PDS smartcards were printed for citizens at the Sadr city branch in Baghdad. The new cards, part of an overall

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

Representative: Ally Raza Qureshi

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

Photo Caption: The Sub-Qutniya water irrigation station, rehabilitated by WFP and supporting agriculture in areas that had been devastated by ISIL.
WFP/Saif al-Tatooz

Country Strategic Plan (CSP, 1 January 2020 – 31 December 2024)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
601 m	253 m
2022 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June – November 2022)
141.3 m	45.1m

Strategic Result 1: Access to food (SDG Target 2.1)

Strategic Outcome 1 (SO 1): Crisis-affected people in Iraq, including IDPs and refugees, are able to 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 Result 4: Sustainable food systems (SDG Target 2.4)

Strategic Outcome 2 (SO 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.

Strategic Result 5: Capacity Strengthening (SDG Target 17.9)

Strategic Outcome 3 (SO 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 in strengthening the safety net component of the government social protection system.

digital approach including the smartphone application 'Tamwini' ('My Food Ration') streamlines many services for citizens and cuts down on time and costs for people wishing to make amendments to their information.

Monitoring

- In comparison to the previous round of Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) data, held on August 2021, the most recent FSOM which is currently being finalized, shows that WFP's assistance to IDPs has helped to stabilize their food security situation. This could be attributed to the combined efforts of WFP, the Ministry of Trade's Public Distribution System (PDS), and the Ministry of Migration and

Displacement (MoMD)'s support, in addition to NGOs. However, a decline in the food security situation of Syrian refugees was observed, which may be attributed to the higher food prices experienced in May. Syrian refugees receive no other source of support towards their food needs, except for WFP's monthly cash assistance. WFP alongside UNHCR held a joint briefing in May to highlight the needs for further funding in order to continue providing essential support to Syrian refugees in Iraq, especially due to increased economic vulnerabilities compounded by COVID-19 and the rising food prices brought about by the conflict in Ukraine.

Challenges

- Funding shortfalls remain the largest challenge to WFP Iraq's activities in 2022 as the programme is only funded up to 34% of the total required. WFP anticipated breaks in implementation and continuously works on streamlining, advocacy with government and complementarity and coordination with partners to help ensure that the assistance required continues to reach as many vulnerable people as possible. WFP Iraq is also continually engaged with the Government of Iraq in order to set-up models to be replicated and scaled up, reaching a much larger volume of beneficiaries.

New Approaches to Iraq's Social Protection System

As part of the landmark work on reforming Iraq's social protection programmes together with the Government of Iraq, UNICEF, ILO and EU, WFP assumed the role of secretariat for a joint technical committee on the establishment of a unified Single Registry and Digitalization. This team will coordinate planning between UN and the Government of Iraq and help ensure that the reform process is streamlined and implemented on the strategic level. WFP also acknowledges that ILO, UN Women and ITC are emerging as strong partners where complementarities are identified. Currently, WFP is in discussions with UNEP and IOM for stronger partnerships.

Donors

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