



WFP Iraq Update

WFP operations in support of the internally displaced, vulnerable groups and capacity building

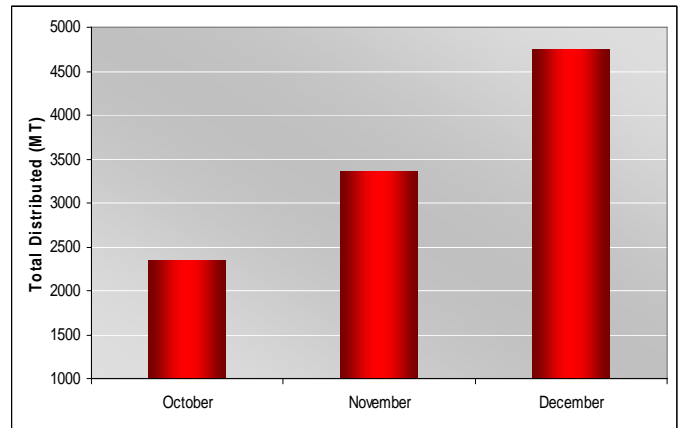
December 2009

December Highlights

- WFP urgently needs further contributions in order to deliver food to those in need. Pipeline breaks begin for January distributions.
- WFP food distributions continued to increase in December 2009 programmes .
- The extension to the current Emergency Operation to March 2010 foresees a cash-for-work pilot project in Diyala.
- New projects being finalised for 2010 include a two year Development Project beginning in April 2010 in Capacity Building in Support of the Public Distribution System and Social Safety Net programmes in Iraq. A two-year PRRO will widen WFP support to vulnerable groups. Both projects are expected to start in April 2010.

Overview of the Month

December saw an increase in WFP food distributions from previous months (see chart opposite) - with 4,744 mt distributed. This food was targeted to the most vulnerable Iraqis, including pregnant and lactating women, malnourished children under five, TB patients, primary school children, female heads of households, and smallholder farmers.



Although distributions have increased in December, new contributions are urgently required for this to be maintained. Pipeline breaks are expected in January for all WFP commodities if no further funding support is received.

Following the launch of WFP's latest initiative - a pilot school feeding project in Suleymaniya and Wassit governorates in November, schools in Diyala and Ninewa governorates started receiving food in December 2009. This pilot project - targeted to eight of the country's poorest rural districts - provides Iraqi primary school children with a free daily snack to help increase school attendance and learning.

WFP has submitted a budget revision for this emergency operation, which extends the operation to 31 March 2010 and introduces a cash pilot activity in Diyala.

This will be followed by a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), slated to begin on 1 April 2010. Pending approval by WFP's Executive Board in February 2010, this PRRO has two components (1) Support to vulnerable groups to restore and rebuild their lives through improved access to food and primary health care services. In addition to the provision of a family food ration, this activity will also encourage vulnerable pregnant and lactating women and malnourished children under 5 to access primary health care services; (2) School feeding as a safety net to restore school attendance and learning and reduce drop-out among primary school students.

WFP is also planning a new development project to begin on 1 April 2010 related to PDS reform.

WFP attended the *Integration of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq and the United Nations Country Team* from Dec 7-9, 2009. The Retreat brought UNAMI and the UNCT together to discuss substantive and operational issues within the context of the global reform agenda and integrated missions with the aim of addressing the priorities of Iraq in a coherent manner. PDS reform emerged as one of the four Integrated Mission priorities.

Pipeline & Resourcing

WFP is urgently seeking funding to cover the upcoming needs of the EMOP extension through March 2010 as well as the PRRO and development projects slated to begin in April 2010. Shortfalls in all commodities are forecast from January 2010 and therefore contributions are needed immediately.

Emergency Operation 10717.0
Assistance to Displaced Iraqis in Iraq & Syria
January 2008 - 31 December 2009

Total Beneficiaries (planned): 1.1 million

Requirements Apr-Dec 09: 70,686mt

Requirements Apr-Dec 09: US\$ 42.7 million

Current Shortfall: US\$24 million

Information on Iraq only. Please contact
WFP Syria for information on Syria.

www.wfp.org/countries/Iraq

Programming Issues

The pilot school meals programme has now begun in all four of the planned governorates. Distributions began in Ninewa and Diyala during December whilst food continued to be distributed in the pilot schools of Sulaymaniyah and Wassit which started this initiative in November. The children receive an 80-gram nutritious date bar fortified with a range of micronutrients.

In December, distributions in support of vulnerable groups, namely pregnant and lactating mothers, malnourished children under 5, TB patients, female heads of household, small farmers in addition to the assistance to the food insecure Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) continued inside Iraq, although not at the planned pace. Shortages in white beans has translated into delays in distributions in areas such as Babel. Distributions are scheduled to resume when the next shipment of beans arrive.



Primary school children in Telkief district of Ninewa governorate begin receiving date bars from WFP in December 2009

The EMOP extension (until 31 March 2010), includes the following components:

- Food Assistance for IDPs
- School Feeding/ Snacks for Primary School Children
- Mother and Child Health and Nutrition
- Vulnerable Groups (Female-headed households, TB patients, disabled)
- Cash for Work (pilot in Diyala)

The cash-for-work pilot is part of the inter-agency initiative in Diyala. 500 IDP households have returned to three demolished villages in Diyala governorate. Returnees were faced with destroyed houses and looted properties. This was compounded by problems with safe water supply, electricity and fuel shortages, lack of transportation facilities, difficulties to communicate with other areas and poor accessibility to health and education services. A joint UN programme for resettlement is under development. Within this, WFP's cash-for-work pilot aims for returnees to rehabilitate infrastructure and provide immediate employment opportunities during resettlement. The pilot is expected to inform the development of additional cash-based safety net programmes under the future PRRO and of a wider public works programme by the Government.

In support of WFP's planned activities for 2010-11, the Minister of Health sent a letter to WFP on 10 December 2009 requesting WFP support for the further development of the mother and child health and nutrition programme in Iraq. Similarly, the Minister of Education requested WFP support for the expansion of the School Feeding programme in Iraq in a letter on 23 December 2009.

Logistics

In December 2009, WFP received and discharged 15 vessels with a total tonnage of 6,200 mt. This has all been dispatched to Iraq, despite complications with border authorities at the Iraqi border. WFP Iraq has also re-opened the Syrian corridor for deliveries of food into Iraq. This is in addition to the Jordan corridor.

The Public Distribution System & Cooperation with the Ministry of Trade

WFP's is finalising a new two-year development project to support the Government to reform the Public Distribution System (PDS) and improve efficiency in managing the supply chain in accordance with the PDS reform law recently passed by Parliament and approved by the Council of Ministers. In preparation for this project, the WFP Representative signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Minister of Trade (MOT) on 22 November 2009.

Following on the signing of the MoU, WFP met with the Minister of Trade in Baghdad on December 15th to discuss steps forward. The MoT have subsequently put together a 7-person committee and appointed a Project Coordinator to operationalise the MoU. A senior Director General from the Ministry will act as secretary and there is planned representation from other departments (grain board, food board, grain processing, economic relations, finance, audit).

Weblinks

Country Strategy Outline: [http://spa.wfp.org/APPS/PROD/SPA5/spa5main.nsf/\\$defaultView/40F22C75AF04FE6EC12576260034D8F8/\\$file/Iraq+Country+Strategy+2010-2014+Post-SRC+Final+Version+Sep+2009.doc](http://spa.wfp.org/APPS/PROD/SPA5/spa5main.nsf/$defaultView/40F22C75AF04FE6EC12576260034D8F8/$file/Iraq+Country+Strategy+2010-2014+Post-SRC+Final+Version+Sep+2009.doc)

Comprehensive Food Security & Vulnerability Assessment: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp192521.pdf>

WFP Strategic Plan: http://www.wfp.org/sites/default/files/WFP_Strategic_Plan_2008-2011_0.pdf