

WFP Iraq Update

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

November 2009

November Highlights

- WFP launched its pilot school meals project on November 16, 2009. The pilot will be implemented in Suleymaniya Governorate in Kurdistan Region for 70,460 pupils, in Ninewa Governorate, northern Iraq for 86,787 students, in Wassit and Diyala Governorates in central Iraq for 49,387 students, and 6,449 consecutively.
- The WFP representative signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Minister of Trade (MOT) for capacity building of the supply chain management related to the Public Distribution System in Iraq on November 22, 2009.
- A donor round table was organized in Baghdad on the proposed WFP Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) support to strengthen social safety nets for vulnerable groups.
- WFP needs further contributions to avert a pipeline break in January and to pre-position for 2010.
- The CCA/UNDAF document will be finalized after inputs arrived from Gol and will be incorporated into the UNDAF 2011-2014 document.

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\$26.3 million

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

www.wfp.org/countries/Iraq

Overview of the Month

November distributions with an expanded caseloads amounted to 3,400 mt of commodities to 253,599 beneficiaries including 166,899 IDPs and 86,700 vulnerable Iraqis as pregnant and lactating women, malnourished children under five, TB patients, female heads of households, and smallholder farmers.

WFP latest initiative to assist the most vulnerable people in Iraq was launched through its pilot school meals programme in Suleymaniya and Wassit governorates in November. The ceremonial opening was attended by government officials and WFP staff. Schools in Diyala and Ninewa Governorates will also be included in the programme as of December 2009. The pilot will provide Iraqi primary school children with a free daily snack to help to boost school attendance, learning and improve food security in eight of the country's poorest districts.

The Representative of WFP and the Iraqi Minister of Trade signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for capacity building related to the supply chain management of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Iraq.

As a follow-up, a donor round table was organized in Baghdad to discuss the signed capacity building project and the proposed WFP Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) support to strengthen social safety nets for vulnerable groups.

WFP opened a photo exhibition on Thursday 26 November 2009 in cooperation with Ministry of Displacement and Migration (MODM) Basra at MODM Office Hall. The exhibition was opened by Basra Governor, Dr. Shiltagh Abood Al-Mayah, with the attendance of Mr. Ahmad Al-Sereity, the Deputy of Basra Provincial Council, MODM director, Basra PC members and other officials. The exhibition contains 40 photos displaying EMOP activities from its launch in Basra in April 2008 up to now; reflecting the distribution, and logistical operations.

Pipeline & Resourcing

WFP is currently processing a budget revision to the current EMOP. The budget revision will extend the operation until the end of March 2010 and introduce a cash-pilot activity in Diyala. As of 1 April, 2010 WFP expects to launch its planned Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO). WFP is urgently seeking funding to cover the needs under the new budget revision and in anticipation of the PRRO.

Shortfalls in all commodities are forecast from January 2010 and therefore contributions are urgently requested now for the smooth flow of commodities, the immediate purchase of wheat flour, vegetable oil and white beans, and for the pre-positioning of stocks covering 2010 needs.

Programming Issues

Under the pilot school meals programme, the children receive an 80-gramme nutritious date bar fortified with a range of micronutrients manufactured and purchased in Egypt. There are plans in the future to produce the date bars in Iraq and develop manufacturing capacity through the private sector. This is in line



Student eating a date-bar in Ranya district, Suleymaniya Governorate

with WFP's corporate strategy of purchasing locally in order to boost employment, promote local agriculture and stimulate the countries' economy.

WFP attended a water development workshop in Basra 18-19 November, with participants concentrating on the new techniques of industrializing water; using under ground waters, using new methods as experienced in Gulf countries Multi-Stage Flash Distillation (MSF) technique in producing water coinciding with generating electricity as Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), using pipeline to carry water to Basra from other Governorates. Access to clean water will have a positive impact on the health and hygiene of the families.

Logistics

During the reporting period, the first shipment of date bars passed the Iraqi border and arrived for distribution. In November, WFP dispatched a total of 4,764 mt commodities as follows: 2,781 mt of wheat flour 1,850 mt of vegetable oil and 133 mt of date bars to Iraq. White beans were not dispatched in November.

WFP Iraq will reopen the Syrian corridor for the Iraq Operation from mid-December, 2009 mainly due to lower shipping costs in some cases from Turkey. From an operational point of view it is also an advantage to have another corridor open for commodities to enter to Iraq. Currently, WFP is waiting for a facilitating letter from GOI for food to be allowed to pass through the Syrian corridor again.

The Public Distribution System & Cooperation with the Ministry of Trade

The Ministry of Trade had a new strategy agreed with the Council of Ministers prior to signing the MOU. The strategy will focus the PDS on the poor and to determine eligibility based on income. In this regard the Minister recognized the timeliness of the WFP proposal and the important role WFP in targeting. In discussing funding possibilities it was agreed that WFP and MoT would adopt a multi-donor approach to ensure necessary support to this project.

Dr. Safa Al-Deen M. Alsafi, Minister of Trade signing MoU with WFP Representative Edward Kallon.



Outreach and Inter-Agency Affairs

During the Iraqi National Development Plan (NDP) 2010 - 2014 conference in Erbil, in November, WFP was represented in the Agriculture, Health, Education and Social Services working groups and the Poverty Reduction sub-group was prioritized. During the conference, WFP provided comments to the GOI focusing on the need to support and protect Iraqi vulnerable groups.

WFP attended the UNDAF strategic planning retreat in Amman in November. During the retreat, WFP advocated for sufficient attention and consideration for social protection within the UNDAF outcomes and on the need to support and protect Iraqi vulnerable groups. Following the retreat, it was agreed that WFP will act as alternate chair on working group economic growth and social protection and will actively participate in the working group dealing with essential social services.

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