



World Food  
Programme

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Alimentos

برنامج  
الأغذية  
العالمي

The Food Aid Organization of the United Nations

## WFP News Release

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14 January 2009

### WFP SAYS IRAQ OPERATION NEAR FULLY FUNDED, THANKS TO HUGE IRAQI GOVERNMENT DONATION

**AMMAN** – The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) announced today that largely thanks to a contribution of US\$40 million from the Government of Iraq, it now had sufficient funding to support its efforts to provide food assistance to up to 750,000 vulnerable internally displaced Iraqis until the scheduled close of the operation in March 2009.

The Iraqi donation, which was confirmed in May, has been used to purchase more than 31,000 metric tons of wheat flour, 2,600 tons of oil and 2,250 tons of beans for distribution to vulnerable IDPs in all of Iraq's 18 governorates.

“It was this contribution, more than anything else, that ensured that the poorest among the displaced, who have lost access to the Iraqi Public Distribution System (PDS), are still receiving food rations,” said Edward Kallon, WFP Iraq Country Director.

The WFP operation targets the most vulnerable among displaced people who are unable to register for PDS rations – which all 29 million Iraqis are eligible to receive – because they have left their original place of residence.

The WFP announcement came two months after the publication of a detailed report by the Iraqi Government and WFP on food security in Iraq, which showed that the numbers of people without adequate access to food has dwindled from around four million in 2005 to just 930,000 last year.

Kallon attributed the improvement in food security to increased economic activity across the country, stimulated by a marked improvement in security and the humanitarian efforts of the international community, while noting that the situation remained volatile and any upsurge in violence could undermine the whole process.

At the same time, the report – the Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis – warned that a further 6.4 million people were in danger of sliding into food insecurity if it were not for safety nets such as the Government-run PDS, under which every Iraqi is entitled to a monthly food basket to cover the nutritional needs.

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The report recommends continued food assistance to the most vulnerable in collaboration with the Government's efforts to reform the PDS. It calls for support to initiatives to improve mother and child caring practices, scaling up food fortification and providing food for education in the poorest areas, with particular emphasis on girls' enrolment and attendance.

Kallon said that WFP stood ready to assist in these areas, particularly with a view to providing technical expertise and helping build capacity, should the Government of Iraq request it.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency and the UN's frontline agency for hunger solutions. In 2009, WFP aims to feed around 100 million people in 77 countries.

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