



WFP Iraq Situation Report #66

August 2019

In Numbers

1.55 million internally displaced people (IOM)

4.35 million returnees (IOM)

372,837 Iraqis assisted by WFP

228,573 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

27,945 Syrian refugees assisted by WFP

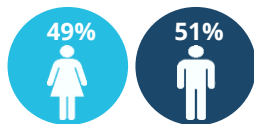
Highlights

- In August, WFP delivered food assistance to 400,782 people in 9 governorates, reaching 370,254 internally displaced people (IDPs), 27,945 Syrian refugees and 2,583 Iraqi returnees and people from vulnerable communities.
- Since 23 August, Ninewa governorate authorities have begun relocating IDPs who are not from Ninewa to their governorates of origin. WFP is moving Family Food Rations to those areas to support the transferred families.
- WFP requires an additional USD 51.3 million to ensure that operations continue uninterrupted through March 2020.

People assisted

400,782

August 2019



Global Humanitarian Funding to Iraq in 2019	Overall: USD 701.2 m
	WFP share: USD 37.8 m

WFP Net Funding Requirements	
Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) and Country Strategic Plan (CSP) (October 2019 – March 2020)	USD 51.3 m

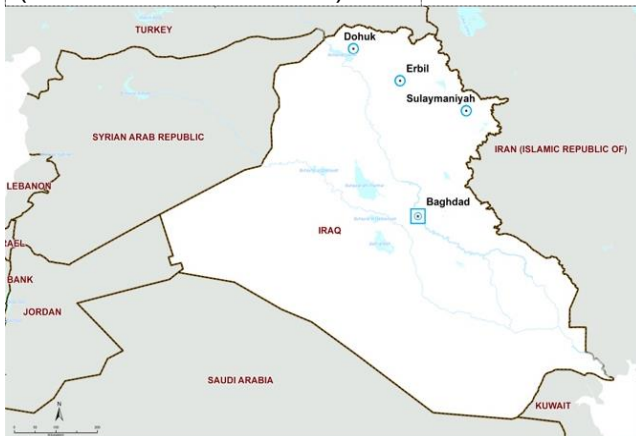


Photo: As part of the testing phase of the digitalisation of Iraq's social safety net, the Public Distribution System (PDS), citizens can now have their iris scanned as a method of authentication when they collect their food rations.

WFP/Yousif Mirza

Situation Update

- On 20 August, an explosion occurred at a munitions depot north of Baghdad. This followed earlier, similar attacks on 12 August at the al-Saqr military base near Baghdad, and on 19 July at a militia base in Salah al-Din province. The situation remains extremely volatile but has not had any impact on WFP operations. However, should the level of tension continue to rise, WFP operations may be affected. Procedures to pass checkpoints may take longer, or crossing may be denied. WFP is continuing to closely monitor the situation.
- Since 23 August, Ninewa governorate authorities have begun relocating IDPs who are not from Ninewa to their governorates of origin, often with little notice or apparent planning. The situation on the ground is fluid, and reported numbers fluctuate, but approximately 1600 people have been returned from Hamam Al Alil, Salamiyah and Nimrud camps in Ninewa to locations in Anbar, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din governorates. In response, WFP is moving Family Food Rations (FFRs) for its next distribution cycle to those areas to support the transferred families.
- WFP is also prepositioning Immediate Response Rations (IRRs) in Anbar, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din, and is coordinating with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration in Iraq and other partners to ensure that potential gaps in coverage are filled. WFP has held off distributions to the transferred families until September, as some

NGOs delivered food rations to them in late August.

- WFP Iraq is continuing to coordinate with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement on meeting the food needs of IDPs. From March until July, more than 45 percent of WFP's caseload received a "top up" to complement the government's assistance. This represented 65 to 70 percent of WFP's usual food basket and has resulted in a cash saving of some USD 2.3 million or the equivalent of 1,900 mt.
- Together with the Board of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs (BRHA), planning is ongoing for the second phase of the IDPs targeting exercise in three selected IDP camps in Duhok. The targeting data collection team of the Kurdistan Region Statistical Organisation (KRSO) will be trained on a new Open Data Kit (ODK) tool that focuses on income, expenditure and assets indicators.
- WFP Iraq has engaged a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) consultant, who is continuing to work with the local government in Anbar, Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Duhok, Kirkuk and Ninewa, to assess the steps required to hand over the RRM to the government. The consultant is reviewing RRM and government capacity in the country, including how to increase the government's first line response through lessons learned from the RRM. Over the next four months, the consultant will provide feedback on the existing capacities, and prepare a risk analysis on handing over the responsibility of the RRM to the government.
- WFP Iraq concluded the first stage of formative research on Nutrition and Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) in the Kurdistan Region (KR), Anbar and Baghdad. This is forming the basis of a draft SBCC action plan, and initial results are being analysed.
- WFP Iraq's Resilience team is working with the Asset Impact Measurement System (AIMS) to chart the impact of resilience projects using satellite imagery. The system can, for instance, monitor the expansion of vegetation coverage following irrigation and water management projects, or canal and pumping stations rehabilitation. The collected data is currently undergoing analysis.

WFP Response

Food Assistance

- During the August cycle, WFP delivered food assistance to 400,782 people in 9 governorates,

reaching 87 percent of the monthly target of 462,646 people. WFP distributed 1,954 mt of Family Food Rations (FFRs) to 158,793 people throughout Iraq in August, to complement the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD)'s food baskets. About 77 percent of the planned metric tons were distributed, which is partly due to delays because of the Eid holidays, and sudden changes in the Joint Monitoring and Coordination Center (JCMC) clearance process for food transport. Some FFRs were reduced to a "top-up" of 50 kg from 70 kg per household. This is comprised of 50 kg of cereals and lentils per household, corresponding to 65 to 70 percent of the full MoMD ration. Alternatively, WFP provides a cash transfer of IQD 11,000.

- In August, WFP provided CBT payments to IDPs totaling USD 2.99 million. The modality transfer from e-vouchers to Mobile Money Transfers (MMT) was concluded in 8 camps.
- Camp assessments for the transition from food to cash assistance are continuing. The modality transfer from food to cash assistance is currently taking place in 25 camps. Communication with Communities (CwC) and key messages to people assisted about this transition are also ongoing. WFP plans to transition to 100 percent cash assistance by the end of the year.
- The transfer value to Syrian refugees usually amounts to IQD 22,000 (USD 19) per month. It was previously disbursed through electronic vouchers or unrestricted cash transfers using the SCOPE platform. General food assistance to refugees is now being delivered by Mobile Money Transfers (MMT). Following the MMT delays in July because of the Financial Service Provider (FSP) changing its bank account, payments of entitlements are back on track.



School Feeding Programme

- In close coordination with the Ministry of Education, preparations are ongoing to resume School Feeding for the new academic year from mid-October. Cooperating partners have been shortlisted, and the recruitment of the new team is ongoing.



Capacity Building

- As part of the testing phase of the digitalisation of Iraq's social safety net, the Public Distribution System (PDS), the Iraqi Minister of Trade Mohammed Hashem Al-Ani officially launched iris scanning verification. Citizens now have the

possibility to have their iris scanned as a method of authentication when they collect their food rations. The citizens have reacted positively to iris scanning as a convenient method of capturing and authenticating their biometric data. The iris scanning roll-out will now be expanded to Al-Muthana and Thi-Qar governorates, and Sadr city in Baghdad.

was able to provide their tax return document at the end of August. Due to this issue, not all food rations were delivered and 400 mt of wheat flour is yet to reach Ninewa. WFP is liaising closely with the JCMC and transporters on all ongoing logistics.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- For the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), the FSC is in the process of calculating the number of people in need (PiN). For the inter-sectoral PiN analysis, the calculation will be made according to the severity of humanitarian consequences.
- With the aim of revitalising and supporting the FSC going forward, the cluster leads for WFP and FAO have appointed focal points across 11 governorates at the local government level.

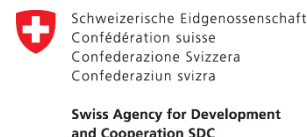


Supply Chain

- There has been an important change in access regulations, that affects food transport. The Joint Monitoring and Coordination Center (JCMC) now requires all transporters to provide their 2019 tax return certificate, in order to be granted approval to move their humanitarian cargo. This new clearance process was imposed without warning, and so far, only one transporter based in Baghdad

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP), 01 January 2018 - 31 December 2019						
	TICSP Requirements in 2019 (in USD)	Allocated Contributions in 2019 (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2019 - March 2020)	People Assisted (August 2019)	Female	Male
TICSP TOTAL (Jan 2018 - Dec 2019)	162.1 m	37.8 m	51.3 m	400,782	196,383	204,399

WFP would like to thank all donors for their contributions to the TICSP, including:



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For further information, visit the WFP Iraq page: wfp.org/countries/iraq