



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Iraq Country Brief October 2019

Operational Context

In Iraq, intermittent conflict continues to aggravate the poverty rate and threaten livelihoods. Following the return process that began in 2018, the situation and needs of internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees remain precarious. WFP Iraq's assistance focuses on saving lives and protecting livelihoods – supporting the Government of Iraq's social safety nets towards zero hunger. Through emergency assistance to IDPs and refugees, and recovery and reconstruction activities for returnees, WFP is helping the Iraqi government reduce vulnerability and build people's resilience and food security – especially for IDPs, refugees, women, girls and boys.

Working towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – in particular SDG 2 "Zero Hunger" & SDG 17 "Partnerships for the Goals" – WFP is collaborating with partners to support Iraq in achieving food security and improved nutrition, promoting an inclusive society and strengthening cooperation. WFP's assistance is aligned with the Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan, the UN Recovery and Resilience Programme framework, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for the Syria crisis, the General Framework of the National Plan for Reconstruction and Development, and Iraq's National Poverty Reduction Strategy. In line with the corporate Integrated Road Map process, WFP Iraq transitioned to a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) from 01 January 2018 until 31 December 2019.



Population: **39 million**
(Ministry of Trade, 2019)

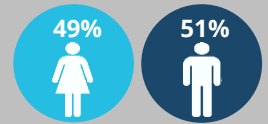
Poverty rate: **22.5%**
(World Bank, 2017)

2018 Human Development Index:
120 of 188 (lowest)

1.44 million IDPs (IOM)
229,285 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

In Numbers

282,962 people assisted
in October 2019



631 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 4.57 million distributed through cash-based transfers

USD 64.2 million six months net funding requirements (December 2019 – May 2020)

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP delivered food assistance to 282,962 people in 9 governorates, reaching 70 percent of the monthly target of 406,882 people. There were some delays in the delivery of family food rations (FFRs) to IDPs and in cash transfers to people assisted.
- Protests began across Iraq on 1 October, spurred by disenfranchised people because of a lack of employment opportunities, perceived corruption and a lack of basic services. After a brief pause out of respect during the Arbaeen pilgrimage in mid-October, protests recommenced on 25 October and are continuing. Due to the civil unrest, the Central Bank of Iraq's services are limited, as their staff cannot safely reach the office. There is also limited internet countrywide. This means that WFP's payments to people assisted are pending for November and part of October, as the funds cannot be transferred to the Financial Service Providers.
- WFP is evaluating alternative solutions including ad-hoc food assistance delivery to people affected in November. Obtaining approvals for the movement of food trucks is also challenging, because some Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center staff are also unable to reach the office. However, WFP is liaising closely by phone with the authorities in Ninewa to obtain approvals as soon as possible.
- Turkey began a military operation in north-eastern Syria on 9 October under the name "Operation Peace Spring" which led to around 13,000 refugees fleeing to Duhok governorate in the Kurdistan Region in the month of October. Since 18 October, there has been a ceasefire. Refugees are being accommodated at Bardarash and Gawilan camps in Duhok. WFP is coordinating closely with all partners on the response, including the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCCC), Board of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs (BRHA), UN agencies and NGOs. In October, WFP delivered food assistance to 13,000 newly arrived refugees in Bardarash and Gawilan camps. WFP is continuing to distribute one-month Family Food Rations (FFRs) in Bardarash camp as well as ready-to-eat Immediate Response Rations (IRRs).

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Photo: A newly arrived refugee family from northeast Syria receives ready-to-eat Immediate Response Rations at Bardarash camp, Duhok. ©WFP / Photo Library

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TISCP, 01 January 2018–31 December 2019)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
341.1 m	263.4 m
Total Requirements for 2019 (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (December 2019 – May 2020)
162.1 m	64.2 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1 (SO 1): Food insecure households of IDPs in affected areas have access to life-saving and nutritious food throughout 2018.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provision of general food assistance in the form of regular cash-based transfers or in-kind monthly food entitlements and ready-to-eat rations in the initial phase of displacement.
- Provision of assistance in schools newly reclaimed and rehabilitated.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 2 (SO 2): Food insecure Syrian refugees have access to life-saving and nutritious food throughout the year.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provision of general food assistance to vulnerable refugees.
- Provision of support for resilience and livelihoods activities for Syrian refugees.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 3 (SO 3): Vulnerable returnees and conflict-affected communities rebuild their assets, recover livelihoods and improve their food security across the country by the end of 2018.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Resilience building through livelihoods activities and social protection to support the food insecure.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 4 (SO 4): Vulnerable groups, including children, adolescents, and pregnant and lactating women and girls have improved nutritional awareness through IYCF, and the government capacity is strengthened.

Focus area: Nutrition capacity strengthening for Government partners

Activities:

- Iraqi institutions receive capacity strengthening training in order to improve nutrition of children, adolescents and pregnant and lactating women and girls across the country.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology

Strategic Outcome 5 (SO 5): Effective coordination for humanitarian support in Iraq

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provision of cluster services and common platforms for the humanitarian community.

- (cont'd from page 1) The IRR food packages do not require cooking and include dates, biscuits, beans, canned chicken and chickpeas. WFP is continuing to distribute ready-to-eat

Immediate Response Rations for new arrivals from northeast Syria, followed by FFRs after 2 days. WFP Iraq has IRRs available for up to 21,000 people, and FFRs for up to 40,000 people, to be distributed as required according to the scale of the influx.

- As Bardarash and Gawilan camps are nearing full capacity, a third camp is currently being determined. So far, as people have been departing the camps to live with their relatives in the Kurdistan Region, there has been space to accommodate the new arrivals.
- Due to the camp closures, consolidations and relocations of IDPs in Iraq, WFP is continuing to move monthly assistance to people relocating to other camps in Anbar, Salah al-Din and Kirkuk, registering them in the new locations for regular distributions.
- WFP Iraq's Resilience team has launched a Call for Proposals for projects in 2020, including for the first time, new resilience proposals in the southern governorates of Basra, Muthanna, Qadisiya and Thi-Qar. These include potential projects on climate change adaptation. WFP is working on the environmental screening of potential project sites, and in early discussions with the FAO to partner on screening.
- As part of the testing phase of the digitalisation of Iraq's social protection programme, the Public Distribution System (PDS), WFP Iraq was selected to attend the WFP Innovation Bootcamp in San Francisco, California. In the high-intensity training programme, the Iraq PDS team received mentoring including from Google and external innovation experts.

Monitoring and Assessments

- In October 2019, WFP and its partner on Mobile Money Transfers (MMT) conducted 165 site visits, including 43 Family Food Ration and 5 Immediate Response Ration distribution sites, 56 cash-out points for internally displaced people (IDPs) and Syrian refugees, 38 e-voucher points, 9 shops, 4 Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) through cash, and 10 EMPACT (formerly Tech for Food). 57 beneficiary monitoring interviews were also carried out.

Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP needs an additional USD 64.2 million to ensure that operations can continue without interruption through May 2020.

Donors

Principal donors to the TISCP:

Germany, United States, Government of Iraq, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, Australia.

Other significant donors to the TISCP include:

France, Republic of Korea, UN Funds, Qatar, Denmark, Kuwait, Norway, Russia, Belgium, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Iceland, Private Donors, Romania.