



SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Iraq Country Brief September 2019

## In Numbers

**239,551 people assisted**  
in September 2019



**65.5 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$2.84 million** distributed through cash-based transfers

**US\$53.6 million** six months net funding requirements (November 2019 – April 2020)

### 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)

**1.55 million** IDPs (IOM)  
**228,573** Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

### Operational Updates

- In September, WFP delivered food assistance to 239,551 people in 9 governorates, reaching 56 percent of the monthly target of 426,112 people. Due to operational challenges, there were some delays in the delivery of family food rations (FFRs) to IDPs; these are being distributed in October. Delays were also caused by new Joint Coordination and Monitoring Committee (JCMC) documentation requirements for food transport.
- Camp closures across the country and relocation of IDPs by the Ninewa, Salah al-Din and Anbar government authorities are ongoing, often with little advance notice. In response, WFP has moved its assistance to the new camps. In Kirkuk, WFP provided ready-to-eat Immediate Response Rations (IRRs) to all 195 families relocated to Laylan 1 camp upon arrival. These households are now registered for WFP's usual monthly distributions of FFRs. In Salah al-Din, WFP provided FFRs to 289 relocated families in Al Shahama camp. 24 vulnerable households additionally received IRRs from WFP upon arrival. Since the families arriving at Al-Shahama camp were unable to meet their food requirements, WFP provided them with full rations in their first month, even if the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD) also provided assistance. While IDP numbers in Ninewa and Salah al-Din are decreasing, due to relocation and families returning home, some camp numbers in Kirkuk are increasing.
- As part of the testing phase of the digitalisation of Iraq's social safety net, the Public Distribution System (PDS), the draft design for a smartphone application "myPDS" has been completed. This app intends for citizens to eventually be able to conveniently update their data without having to visit PDS offices. It will also be used for verification when collecting rations.
- Following a request from the Ministry of Trade – which oversees the PDS – WFP is working on a "proof of concept" plan to expand the testing phase to the eight remaining governorates, building on the current approach. This way, citizens will be reached in all 18 governorates during the digitalization testing phase.
- WFP is working on a social and behavior change communication (SBCC) strategy for healthy eating. This builds on the research that WFP conducted this

**Photo:** Planting an olive tree as a symbol of peace and to launch a new resilience project in Ninewa, on the International Day of Peace on 21 September. ©WFP / Photo Library

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Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/iraq](http://www.wfp.org/countries/iraq)

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

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>341.1 m</b>	<b>263.4 m</b>
Total Requirements for 2019 (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (November 2019 – April 2020)
<b>162.1 m</b>	<b>53.6 m</b>

### 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) summer in Iraq. WFP is coordinating with the Government, NGO/UN partners and the Nutrition Working Group.

- Preparations are ongoing to resume School Feeding in November. The start was postponed from October, due to upcoming religious holidays and celebrations. The new School Feeding team have begun work, and training for the team and NGO partners is ongoing. WFP has reopened its office in Basra to coordinate School Feeding in the southern governorates, as well as resilience and capacity building activities.
- WFP has created a simple and practical online reporting tool, to allow for each school to report electronically – including via smartphone – on class attendance and school meals received on a daily basis. WFP is also collaborating with UNESCO and UNICEF on the national Education Management Information System (EMIS) for schools, and set up a working group between the three agencies on this digital school management system.

## Monitoring and Assessments

- In September 2019, WFP conducted 140 site visits, including 29 in-kind distribution sites, 64 cash-out points for internally displaced people (IDPs) and Syrian refugees, 26 e-voucher points, 5 shops, 3 Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) through cash, and 13 EMPACT (formerly Tech for Food). 13 beneficiary monitoring interviews were also carried out.
- For appropriate accountability and to handle complaints, Case Review Committees (CRCs) are running in each camp, consisting of members from WFP, UNHCR and Camp Management. The purpose of the CRCs is to act as a continuous targeting mechanism in view of dynamic changes within households in camps. CRCs scrutinize complaints and decide on exclusion and inclusion. Families unsatisfied with the result of the targeting exercise are able to file complaints by phone or in person at each camp. The complaints are tracked by WFP, UNCHR and partners until final feedback is provided to the complainant.
- WFP Iraq's Resilience team is working with UN Habitat on the Recovery, Reconstruction and Resilience (RRR) Data Platform. The RRR portal is hosted by UN-Habitat, to coordinate recovery and resilience activities of the UN agencies in Iraq.
- Together with the Board of Relief and Humanitarian Affairs (BRHA) and Kurdistan Region Statistics Office (KRSO), WFP is continuing the second phase of the IDPs targeting exercise in three selected IDP camps in Duhok. Around 9,100 households have been interviewed. The analysis is ongoing.

## Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP needs an additional USD 53.6 million to ensure that operations can continue without interruption through April 2020.

## Donors

Principal donors to the TISCP:

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

Other significant donors to the TISCP include:

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