



SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Iraq Country Brief December 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)

2019 Human Development Index:  
**120 of 188** (lowest)

**1.41 million** IDPs (IOM)  
**245,810** Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

### In Numbers

**469,982** people assisted  
in December 2019



**1,493 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 5.26 million** distributed through  
cash-based transfers

**USD 65.1 million** six months net funding  
requirements (February – July 2020)

### Operational Updates

- In December, WFP delivered food assistance to 469,982 people in 10 governorates, reaching 72 percent of the monthly target of 648,623 people.
- Protests continue in Iraq (except in the Kurdistan Region and some northern areas), spurred by disenfranchised people because of a lack of employment opportunities, perceived corruption and a lack of basic services.
- In 2019, WFP continued to work closely with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), to ensure value for money in the use of government and donor resources. When MoMD distributed food to IDPs in camps, WFP “topped-up” the ration with food or cash assistance. By the end of 2019, this led to savings of USD 6.2 million in cash assistance, plus 1,900 metric tonnes (USD 1.2 million) of food assistance.
- By the end of December, around 19,000 people had fled from northeast Syria into Duhok in the Kurdistan Region, following the Turkish operations in October, and WFP has delivered food assistance for over 17,000 refugees in Bardarash and Gawilan camps. In both camps, WFP is continuing to distribute ready-to-eat food packages for new arrivals, and one-month rations after two days. Arrivals have slowed to 40-50 per day.
- Obtaining approvals for the movement of food trucks remains challenging, because of changes in the processes between the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Center (JCMC) and the National Operations Center (NOC) with frequently changing requirements for getting movement approvals, affecting all those transporting items. WFP completed food distributions in Kirkuk, Salah al-Din and Ninewa, while some distributions in Anbar were delayed to January.
- A Budget Revision to WFP Iraq's new Country Strategic Plan (CSP) is being submitted from January, to include up to three months' food assistance as a contingency under the CSP.

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**Photo:** A healthy meal at the primary school at Daquq, Kirkuk, where WFP's School Feeding Programme relaunched in late December. ©WFP / Omar Ali Alrifai

## 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) (February – July 2020)
<b>162.1 m</b>	<b>65.1 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.

- WFP Iraq’s Resilience team and Cooperating Partners concluded the current phase of activities in December 2019, including completing the planting of 50,000 trees, constructing 223 greenhouses, 35 pump stations / bore holes for water access, and more. (Full details will be in the forthcoming Iraq Annual Country Report 2019 (ACR). The team is now preparing with the same Cooperating Partners to build towards the next phase from January, aiming towards long-term sustainability and resilience for host communities and returnees.

- The School Feeding team restarted the programme in late December 2019, prioritizing 330,000 children in 1,200 schools in 11 governorates across Iraq, in the current academic year. School Feeding, with the full coordination and support of Directorates of Education and Health in the respective governorates, started in Kirkuk, Basra, Muthanna, Salah al-Din, Diyala and Anbar. It is expected that it will start soon in Wassit and the remaining governorates.

- Students graduated from the second cycle of EMPACT, WFP’s digital skills and English training programme that helps vulnerable youth foster livelihoods.

- As part of the testing phase of the digitalisation of Iraq’s social safety net, the Public Distribution System (PDS), WFP has helped to design a mobile app called ‘Tamwini’. The app is currently being developed with the participation of citizens – user centered design – and will enable them to update and access their data, digitally pay for PDS services via mobile money, and support the provisioning of functional PDS digital identity which is linked to the national foundational unified ID.

## Monitoring and Assessments

- In December 2019, WFP and its partner on Mobile Money Transfers (MMT) conducted 116 site visits, including 29 Family Food Ration and 3 Immediate Response Ration distribution sites, 51 cash-out points for internally displaced people (IDPs) and Syrian refugees, 21 e-voucher points, 4 shops, 3 Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) through cash, and 8 EMPACT. 46 beneficiary monitoring interviews were also carried out.

## Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP needs an additional USD 65.1 million to ensure that operations can continue without interruption through July 2020.

## Donors

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