



WFP Iraq Country Brief

Highlights

- Since the beginning of efforts by Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) to retake Mosul on 17 October 2016, WFP has provided assistance to an additional 1.1 million people of the over 1 million already being assisted.
- WFP will face serious funding constraints in April, when operations to retake western Mosul may still be ongoing. USD 67 million are needed to continue supporting Iraqi IDPs for the next six months.
- According to WFP monitoring and evaluation, food security improved following the receipt of WFP food assistance for people in and from eastern Mosul.

WFP Assistance

Emergency Assistance to Populations Affected by the Iraq Crisis	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
EMOP 200677 (April 2014- Dec 2017)	954.3 m	549.8 m (58%)	67 m (88%)

* March - August 2017

WFP assisted 1.5 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Iraq in February 2017 through Family Food Rations (FFRs), which provide a family of five with 80 percent of their required nutritional intake for one month, and cash-based transfers (CBTs), valued at USD 17 per person per month. Immediate Response Rations (IRRs), which provide ready-to-eat food for a family of five for three days, are provided to conflict-affected families. WFP targets the most vulnerable of those displaced by conflict in Iraq, in particular: households led by women, families with individuals living with disabilities, families with a large number dependents and those without access to work.

Mosul Response:

On 17 October 2016, Prime Minister al-Abadi announced the beginning of operations to retake the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) stronghold of Mosul. In partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA, WFP has provided coordinated emergency assistance. Monthly food entitlements are provided to those in camps who have access to cooking facilities. On 22 January 2017, the ISF announced that ISIL had been forced out of eastern Mosul. The military offensive on western Mosul began on 19 February 2017.

Assistance to Vulnerable Syrian Refugees in Iraq	Total Requirements	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Regional PRRO 200987 (January 2017- Dec 2018)	58 m	3.3 m

* March - August 2017, includes solid pledges and forecasts

As part of the regional Syrian refugee protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO), WFP provides CBTs to 54,000 Syrian refugees residing in nine camps across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). All those receiving assistance get USD 19 (IQD 22,000) per person, per month, with distributions managed through the electronic SCOPE platform. WFP has been supporting Syrian refugees in Iraq since 2012.

Special Operation - Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunications Support in Iraq	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
SO 200746 (April 2014- Dec 2017)	31.5 m	15.3 m (49%)	N/A

* February 2017 - July 2017

Launched in July 2014, the Special Operation supports the work of the Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC). These two WFP-led clusters coordinate the logistics and emergency telecommunications responses to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance for the entire humanitarian community in Iraq.

In Numbers

10 million people affected by the conflict

3 million people displaced

950,000 people food insecure

1.5 million
People assisted
February 2017

49%



51%



Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Alexandra Murdoch
Caption: A newly displaced Iraqi family carry their IRR in a WFP bag near Mosul.



February 2017

Operational Updates

- In February, WFP provided assistance to 1.5 million people in all 18 governorates of Iraq. An additional 330,000 people received emergency Immediate Response Rations (IRRs).
- According to WFP monitoring and evaluation, food security improved across all outcomes following the receipt of WFP food assistance for people in and from eastern Mosul. Fewer people are going hungry – the percentage of households eating adequately has more than doubled in recent months and very few families surveyed had poor food consumption following the receipt of WFP assistance (from 39 percent before assistance to zero percent after). Dietary diversity, or the quality of a household diet, improved immensely as the people assisted were able to consume cereals every day and consume legumes, vegetables and proteins twice as often as before.
- Since the beginning of ISF efforts to retake Mosul from ISIL on 17 October 2016, WFP has provided assistance to an additional 1.1 million people, over and above the 1 million already being assisted around the country. In mid-March WFP will begin distributing specialised nutritious foods, Plumpy'Sup, to treat moderately acute malnourished children displaced to camps from Mosul.
- WFP provided one-off food assistance to newly-displaced families receiving urgent medical assistance at Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) trauma centres around the camps in Hamam al-Alil and Hamdaniya.

Challenges

- WFP faces serious funding constraints in April, when operations to retake western Mosul may still be ongoing. USD 67 million are needed to continue supporting Iraqi IDPs for the next six months.
- There are some concerns in the Hamam al-Alil camp over living conditions. While it seems the food supply is adequate and food distributions are ongoing, it is important to ensure IDPs receive fuel and stoves. Additionally, access to healthcare and adequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities are crucial to ensure children do not become malnourished.
- On 19 February, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) resumed military operations to retake western Mosul from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). The humanitarian impact has been significant. Since the new offensive began, 50,000 people have been displaced from western Mosul, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). There are currently 4,000 people leaving western Mosul each day, the highest sustained daily average of displacement since the Mosul Offensive began in October 2016.

Country Background & Strategy



In the past, vulnerability to food insecurity in Iraq was chiefly a result of obstacles to international trade – provoked by war and sanctions – impeding the export of oil and import of food. Since 2014, instability due to conflict is the main driver of food insecurity.

In April 2014, WFP launched an EMOP to respond to the food needs of 240,000 displaced people from Anbar governorate. Following mass displacement and ongoing conflict, WFP now provides assistance each month in all 18 governorates of the country.

Throughout 2016, Iraq witnessed an escalation in the conflict between Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and fighters from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). This fighting has left millions displaced and unable to meet their dietary needs and food preferences. WFP works with the Government of Iraq to strengthen social safety nets, particularly the Public Distribution System (PDS).

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 2 on zero hunger and SDG 17 on partnerships, WFP is working closely with many partners to contribute to ending poverty and hunger, promoting an inclusive society, strengthening partnerships in Iraq and empowering women. Iraq currently ranks 123 out of 155 in the latest Human Development Report's Gender Inequality Index (2014).

In this context, WFP has focused on saving lives and protecting livelihoods in Iraq in an effort to support the people of Iraq to achieve zero hunger. WFP has been present in Iraq since 1991.

Population: 37.9 million
(Government, 2016)

2015 Human Development Index:
121 out of 188

Stunting: 17-20% in children <5
(CFSVA, 2017)

Malnutrition: 5-8% in children <5
(CFSVA, 2017)

Donors

Top 5 in 2016 (EMOP 200677, in alphabetical order): Australia, Denmark, ECHO, Germany and USA

Contact info: Craig Browne (craig.browne@wfp.org)

Country Director: Sally Haydock (sally.haydock@wfp.org)

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/iraq