



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Iraq Country Brief August 2018



Operational Context

In April 2014, WFP launched an Emergency Programme to respond to the food needs of 240,000 displaced people from Anbar Governorate. The upsurge in conflict and the concurrent downturn in the macro-economy continues to threaten livelihoods, increase rates of poverty in low economic areas, and contribute to vulnerability and food insecurity, especially among internally displaced persons, women, girls and boys, and the poor. As the situation of the displaced population remains precarious, and needs rise following the return process that began in early 2018, WFP's priority concerns in the country continue to focus on emergency response to displaced people, with additional recovery and reconstruction activities to support returnees.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 2 on Zero Hunger and SDG 17 on Partnerships, WFP is working closely with partners in an effort to support the people of Iraq to achieve zero hunger, promoting an inclusive society, and strengthening partnerships. WFP's assistance is aligned with the 2018 Iraq Humanitarian Response Plan, the Recovery and Resilience Programme, and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for the Syria crisis.

In line with the corporate Integrated Road Map process, WFP Iraq has transitioned to a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) starting 01 January until 31 December 2018.



Population: **37.9 million**
(Government, 2016)

2016 Human Development Index: **121 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

Malnutrition: **5-8% of children <5**
(CFSVA, 2016)

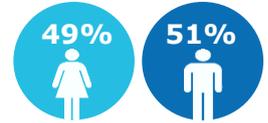
In Numbers

3,840 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$5.13 m cash-based transfers made

US\$41.4 m six months (September 2018 - January 2019) net funding requirements

550,785 people assisted
in August 2018



Operational Updates

- Returns of displaced Iraqis to their areas of origin continue, with more than 4 million returnees and 1.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) as of 31 August ([IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix](#)). The highest numbers of returns are recorded in Ninewa Governorate (37.7 percent of the total number of returnees); Anbar Governorate (32.2 percent); and Salah al-Din Governorate (13.8 percent).
- WFP, UNHCR and the Kurdistan Region Statistics Office have released the [Joint Vulnerability Assessment \(JVA\) for Syrian Refugees in Iraq](#). The assessment investigated the status of Syrian refugees in camp and out-of-camp settings to determine food-targeting criteria that would allow programme adjustments based on needs. It also addressed long-standing concerns expressed by refugees and local authorities regarding previous targeting.
- WFP has started the six-month targeting and verification exercise of Syrian refugee households in camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The purpose of the exercise is to identify the most vulnerable households so they continue to receive the food assistance they require. Refugee households will be assessed based on their individual socio-economic circumstances, including access to food. Household visits will be conducted using a new Protection Monitoring Tool that includes indicators related to both food security and protection vulnerability. This tool was developed by UNHCR and WFP following the JVA, and will allow WFP and UNHCR to target assistance to the truly most vulnerable. The exercise is expected to be completed by January 2019.
- WFP is working with the Ministry of Education to prepare the expansion of the school meals programme to further areas across Iraq, after the programme concluded in West Mosul in May. The expansion aims to cover up to 300,000 children in about 1,000 primary schools. Activities are planned to start in December in five governorates: Basra, Muthanna, Thi-Qar, Ninewa, and Kirkuk.

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Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (01 January - 31 December 2018)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2018 – February 2019)
216.8 m	168.1 m	41.4 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 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: 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: 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 livelihood activities and social protection to support the food insecure.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 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 to manage fortified food commodities through national safety net programme by end of 2018.

Focus area: *Resilience building*

Activities:

- Nutrition capacity strengthening for government partners.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise, and technology

Strategic Outcome 5: Effective coordination for humanitarian support in Iraq

Focus area: *Crisis response*

Activities:

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

Monitoring

- In August, WFP conducted 132 site visits to 40 in-kind distribution sites, 37 e-voucher distributions, 23 shops, 14 cash-out points for IDPs and 1 point for refugees, 2 Immediate Response Ration (IRR) distributions, 3 cash-for-work sites and 12 Tech for Food sites. Additionally, 38 beneficiary monitoring interviews were carried out in the reporting period.
- The Food Security and Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) of Q3 2018 for the Activity 3 (provision of general food assistance to Syrian refugees in Iraq) has been completed, following the training of Kurdistan Region Statistics Office's enumerators in FSOM data collection. The findings will be released in September 2018.

Challenges

- Iraq's Independent High Election Commission (IHEC) released the results of the recount on its website early on 10 August. Parliament ordered the recount in June after widespread allegations of fraud cast doubt on the integrity of the ballot. The IHEC said the results of the recount matched the initial results from 13 of Iraq's 18 provinces. The winning parties are still embroiled in negotiations over forming the next governing coalition three months after the vote, with no sign of an imminent conclusion.
- Hundreds of Iraqis in the southern oil hub of Basra, southern Iraq, continued their protests in the city demanding basic services such as electricity, clean drinking water, jobs and ending pervasive corruption. The demonstrations escalated on 31 August, when the protesters tried to break into the provincial government headquarters in Basra to press their demands, clashing with security forces.
- The Iraqi Government placed a temporary restriction to the cultivation of water-intensive crops (such as rice, corn, sesame, and sunflowers) for the 2018 summer agricultural season due to reduced availability of water for irrigation purposes. The ban intended to secure drinking water sources in the country and control the shortage of water. Iraq is heavily dependent on water resources originating beyond its borders

Donors

Canada, France, Germany, the Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund (IHPF), Japan, Norway, Qatar, Russian Federation, Switzerland, United States of America