

WFP Iraq Situation Report #61

March 2019



WFP / M&E

In Numbers

1.74 million people displaced (IOM)

4.21 million returnees (IOM)

451,217 Iraqis assisted by WFP

253,672 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

32,561 Syrians assisted by WFP

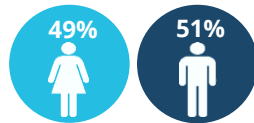
Highlights

- In March, WFP delivered food assistance to over 483,800 people in 10 governorates.
- In an effort to better coordinate with the government and increase backstopping of government efforts, WFP organised a workshop with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Trade, which oversees Iraq's Public Distribution System (PDS) of food rations. A working group will be established for increased coordination and information-sharing.

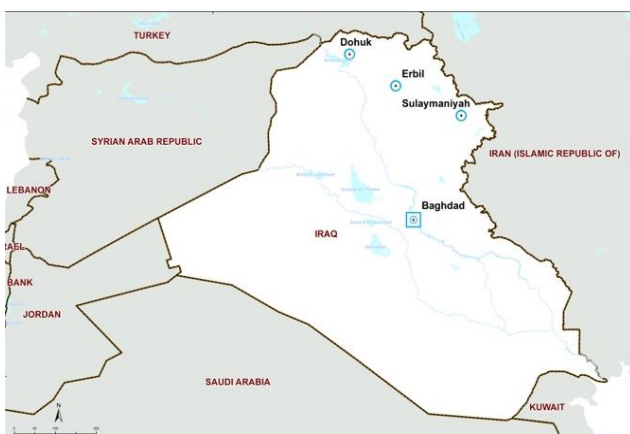
People assisted

483,801

March 2019



Global Humanitarian Funding to Iraq in 2019	Overall: USD 701.2 m
	WFP share: USD 9.2 m
WFP Net Funding Requirements	
Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) (April 2019 – September 2019)	USD 49.4 m



Situation Update

- Security incidents during the month of March were consistent with previous months. A lower number of incidents were recorded in the latter half of March – this was mostly due to bad weather conditions hindering incidents and does not reflect any major changes in the security environment.
- The impact of heavy seasonal rains is evident in several governorates. The effects of rising water levels included the temporary evacuation of affected persons, damaged infrastructure and flooded agricultural areas. So far there has been no effect on WFP operations and no additional food assistance has been programmed.
- Due to insufficient resources, WFP moved from a monthly to a 6-week cycle for the provision of General Food Assistance for IDPs from March. The cash-based transfer (CBT) value was reduced from 20,000 to 17,000 IQD per person to reflect current prices of the food basket.
- WFP urgently needs USD 49.4 million through September to uninterruptedly continue its assistance to people in need.

WFP Response

Supply Chain

- WFP is working on a strategy to shift to cash-based transfers and the engagement of

Photo: Mobile money transfers (MMT) resumed in March. WFP/M&E

retailers, scaling down traditional logistics due to the smaller emergency operations in Iraq.

Assessments

- WFP conducted an assessment to explore the feasibility of switching from in-kind food assistance and/or e-vouchers to cash through mobile money transfers (MMT). The team visited two in-kind camps in Diyala.
- Preparations have started for the targeting exercise for IDPs. The same staff involved in regular verification will be overseeing the targeting exercise. MoMD will also be joining the targeting exercise.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- In March, WFP did not distribute its full monthly Family Food Ration (FFR) in some camps in Anbar and Salah al-Din governorates, because of MoMD's plans to distribute there. WFP instead complemented government rations with some missing items from the food basket. Improved coordination with ministries is enabling WFP to effectively complement the government's assistance.
- CBT were delayed in January and February as banking and financial regulations and sanctions made it difficult to transfer funds to the MMT provider. However, the issue has been resolved and MMT payments resumed in March.
- WFP continues to arrange Communication with Communities (CwC) and outreach activities to inform and raise awareness among IDPs assisted, to inform them around the new 6-week distribution cycle and the reduction in the amount of CBT entitlements.
- In an effort to better coordinate with the government and increase backstopping of government efforts, WFP organised a workshop with the Ministry of Migration and Displacement, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Trade, which oversees Iraq's Public Distribution System (PDS) of food rations. A working group will be established for increased coordination and information-sharing.
- WFP is supporting the Ministry of Trade with modernising its Public Distribution System (PDS), which is the country's biggest food ration safety net. The plans for the rollout of the trial

phase testing the new technology have expanded to more governorates, and is projected to reach approximately 43,000 citizens in Anbar, Baghdad, Basra, Duhok, Maysan, Al-Najaf and Ninewa, including Khazer IDP camp in Ninewa governorate. The new technology solutions being tested include, among others, a new digital platform, biometric scanning and verification – fingerprints and iris, and a user-driven smartphone app.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security Cluster

- As part of the preparedness strategy for Iraqi returnees from Syria, the Food Security Cluster (FSC) coordinated with its partners and submitted a response plan to OCHA.



Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster (LC) closed down its official activities in Iraq, completed its Exit Strategy and handed over to the former cooperating partners Mercy Hands, the Logistics Sector working group and government partners. A member of the team will continue to manage cross-border operations with Syria until 30 June 2019. These are currently at a low level.



Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

- The ETC concluded its phase-out from Iraq on 31 March 2019 and handed over its work to provide internet and telecommunications connectivity to beneficiaries, to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), and the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS).

Contacts

- Country Director: Sally Haydock
- Sharon Rapose, Communications and Reporting Officer: sharon.rapose@wfp.org
- Teklemariam Moges, Logistics Coordinator: teklemariam.moges@wfp.org
- Las Rashid, FSC Coordinator: las.rashid@wfp.org

For further information, visit the WFP Iraq page: wfp.org/countries/iraq

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP), 01 January 2018 - 31 December 2019)

	Total TICSP Requirements (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April 2019 - September 2019)	People Assisted (March 2019)	Female	Male
TICSP TOTAL (Jan 2018 - Dec 2019)	341.1 m	9.2 m	60.6 m	483,801	237,062	247,739