



Baghdad—WFP/Mohammed Albahbani



World Food Programme

Country: IRAQ

Emergency Assistance to Populations Affected by the Iraq Crisis

In numbers

8.2 million people in need of humanitarian aid (Humanitarian Response Plan [HRP])

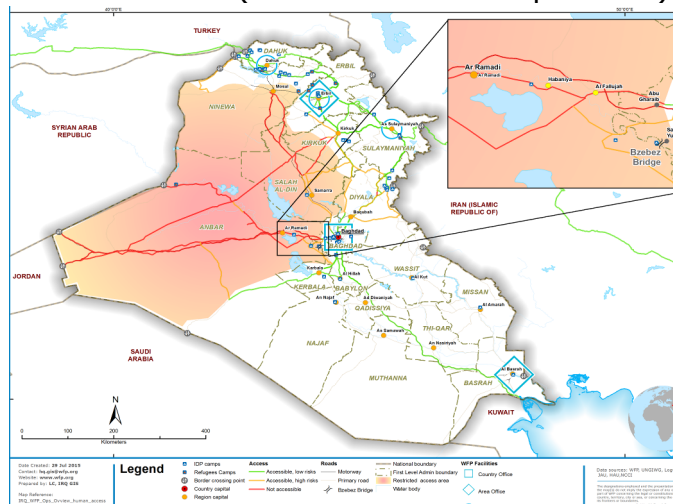
3.2 million people internally displaced (IOM)

245,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

WFP Iraq Funding Requirements:

EMOP 200677 for conflict-affected Iraqis:
USD 76.6 million (November 2015 - April 2016)

EMOP 200433.IQ for Syrian refugees:
USD 22.8 million (November 2015 - April 2016)



Highlights

- To continue assisting Iraqis affected by the current crisis, WFP requires USD 11.3 million to fund operations until December 2015, and a further USD 7.8 million is needed for the Syrian refugee response in Iraq until December 2015. To extend assistance for as long as possible amid funding shortfalls, WFP has adopted tiered distributions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and Syrian refugees, adjusted by location and assessed vulnerability to food insecurity.
- According to WFP remote monitoring, the average cost of food increased in six governorates, including Diyala, Kirkuk and Ninewa, and remained particularly high in the besieged district of Haditha, in Anbar governorate. The percentage of people consuming an inadequate diet has increased by 4 percent in Baghdad, while over a quarter of IDP households report using negative coping strategies to address their food needs.

Situation Update

- The International Organization for Migration estimates 3.2 million Iraqis have been internally displaced since the outbreak of conflict last year. Of this total, 375,000 have returned to their governorate of origin, with Salah al-Din governorate seeing the largest wave of returnees.
- According to WFP and FAO joint assessments, 4.4 million people demonstrate some form of food insecurity, attributable in part to blocked supply routes, reduced

agricultural production and increased market prices. WFP's remote monitoring reports that 28 percent of IDP households employ negative food-related coping strategies; IDPs living in camps are also more likely to resort to negative coping strategies to meet their food needs than those living in the community.

WFP Response

- Through **EMOP 200677**, WFP aims to assist 2.2 million displaced and conflict-affected people in Iraq per month through three modalities: monthly Family Food Parcels (FFPs); vouchers; and three-day Immediate Response Rations (IRRs). However, due to significant funding shortfalls and continued access constraints, WFP has been forced to scale back assistance and now works to reach 1.5 million people per month in all 18 governorates.
- As part of the regional **EMOP 200433** to assist those displaced by the Syria conflict, WFP now assists 48,000 Syrian refugees residing in nine camps across Iraq on a monthly basis following recent assessments and the start of targeted assistance in August, as compared to the earlier plan to reach 130,000 refugees.
- By heading the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters through **Special Operation 200746**, WFP assists UN and NGO partners to ensure an efficient and effective logistics and communications response to humanitarian emergencies. The Logistics Cluster has 60 partners and manages warehouses in Erbil, Duhok and Baghdad. The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster has 31 partners, and provides IT and telecommunications support to 200 humanitarian staff on the ground. The Food Security Cluster, co-led by WFP and FAO, works with UN agencies, NGOs and local partners to coordinate the food security response to the crisis in Iraq.

ASSISTANCE FOR IDPs: Family Food Parcels (FFPs)

- In the September-October distribution cycle, WFP distributed FFPs to 1.4 million IDPs with access to cooking facilities. To extend assistance despite funding shortfalls, WFP is prioritising IDPs living in camps in central conflict-affected governorates with full rations, while all IDPs elsewhere receive reduced rations on a two-month distribution cycle. The commodities, including rice, pulses, flour and vegetable oil, are prioritised to avoid duplication with rations provided by the Public Distribution System (PDS) and support 40 percent of caloric requirements.
- Following heavy rain in Baghdad and Anbar in late October, tens of thousands of IDPs living in camps have been relocated or have lost their rations; some distributions were moved or delayed as a result. Once the situation stabilises, WFP will re-assess needs and distribute FFPs as planned.

Vouchers

- WFP distributes food vouchers to IDPs in the northern governorates of Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah. To align with reductions to in-kind assistance, voucher distributions are calibrated by family size, and value has been reduced twice from its original value of USD 26: in March, to USD 16, and again in August to USD 10. Vouchers are redeemable at 190 local shops.
- A total of 409,000 people received food vouchers in October. After unforeseen financial issues for some banks in the September cycle which delayed distributions for some beneficiaries, WFP's partner has since opened a new bank account to address the problem and WFP experienced no delays in October in voucher distributions.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR IDPs:

Immediate Response Rations (IRRs)

- In collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA and NGO partners, WFP provides IRRs to transient IDPs through a **Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)**. IRRs consist of portable ready-to-eat food rations which can feed a family of five for three days.
- As part of its first line response, WFP continues to assist recent returnees and newly displaced families. During October, over 58,000 people have been reached with IRRs in Erbil, Kirkuk, Diyala, Baghdad and Sulaymaniyah, including flood-affected people in the central governorates.

ASSISTANCE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES:

- Guided by a Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment of all camp-based refugees, WFP is now channeling its limited resources towards providing monthly assistance to 48,000 Syrian refugees who are vulnerable or extremely vulnerable to food insecurity.
- WFP has adopted a tiered approach whereby Syrian refugees residing in camps considered food-insecure receive USD 19 each month and those who are marginally food insecure receive USD 10 each month. Food-secure refugees no longer receive WFP food assistance, representing a 47 percent reduction in the total number of Syrian refugees receiving WFP assistance.
- With the construction of partner shops in Gawilan and Arbat camps completed, Syrian refugees receiving WFP assistance in all nine camps have now fully transitioned from in-kind assistance to vouchers.

Clusters    

- All Clusters are preparing for the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The HRP, which will be launched in late November, seeks to recalibrate the UN's response to the deteriorating humanitarian

situation in Iraq.

Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- The governorate-level FSC in Kirkuk has been activated, joining a network of NGO focal points from priority and hard-to-reach areas to coordinate and define the strategic objectives of the food security response on a governorate level.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

- Joint missions are underway with UNAMI in Erbil to enhance radio coverage and boost the capacity of emergency telecommunications networks in Iraq by installing agency-specific radio channels.
- The ETC is receiving applications for a technical training course being run by the ETC in Erbil in December. The objective of the training is to build the capacity of local ICT staff from UN agencies and NGOs in the area of digital radio communication technology. Applications will close on 9 November.

Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster is coordinating with USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance to facilitate an in-kind contribution of USD 75 million, including a shipment of non-food items (NFIs), in mid-November. Storage capacity in Erbil and Baghdad facilities has been substantially augmented in order to accommodate the incoming NFIs, which will support logistics, cargo tracking and warehousing services for the UN's humanitarian response

Resourcing Update 

- Unless USD 11.3 million is urgently secured to continue 2015 operations, up to 2.2 million people are at risk of losing WFP food assistance in December. A total of USD 76.6 million is required until April 2016 under Budget Revision 6 of EMOP 200677.
- WFP's Syrian refugee response in Iraq requires USD 6.9 million to continue its operations until December. A total of USD 22.8 million is required until April 2016 under Budget Revision 16 of EMOP 200433. If the necessary funding is not received, WFP will be forced to make cutbacks in assistance to food-insecure Syrian refugees across the country.

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"This is how we live now"



Basrah—WFP/Mohammed Albahbani

Abdulwahab, 76, used to live in Mosul with his four children and their families. When militants stormed his house, capturing his sons and eldest grandchildren, he was forced to flee Mosul with his daughter and grandson, "I don't know whether my sons are dead or alive."

Now he lives in Basrah, but his family's financial situation is tough and he is too old to work. "We have no money here... this is how we live now." Thanks to its donors and partners, WFP can provide Abdulwahab with a regular parcel of food items such as flour, pulses and vegetable oil, which can "sustain us for a whole month." However, amid dwindling funding, WFP has been forced to make cutbacks to rations provided to people like Abdulwahab, and he explains "the food now is not enough." WFP urgently requires donations to continue assisting Abdulwahab and his family through this difficult time, many miles from home.

WFP's emergency food assistance in Iraq is supported by Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Iraq, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, the UK, the USA, and private sector donations. The Special Operation is funded by the USA, Kuwait, the UK, Canada, Sweden, Japan, and private donors.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY THE IRAQ CRISIS wfp.org/countries/iraq

