



Muthanna—WFP/Shatha Kando



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])

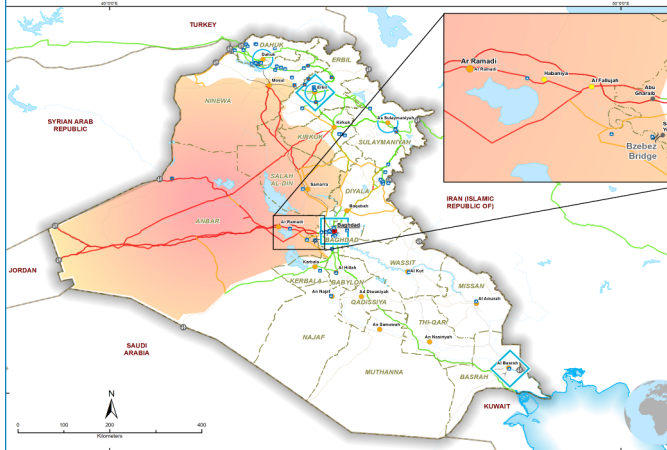
**3.2 million people internally displaced** (IOM)

**245,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq** (UNHCR)

#### WFP Iraq Funding Requirements:

**EMOP 200677 for conflict-affected Iraqis:**  
USD 45 million (December 2015 - May 2016)

**EMOP 200433.IQ for Syrian refugees:**  
USD 25.7 million (December 2015 - May 2016)



### Highlights

- To continue assisting Iraqis affected by the current crisis for the next six months, WFP requires USD 45 million until May 2016; a further USD 25.7 million is needed for the Syrian refugee response in Iraq for the same time period. To extend assistance for as long as possible, WFP is continuing tiered distributions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and Syrian refugees for the rest of the year, adjusted by their assessed vulnerability to food insecurity and location.
- WFP distributed urgently needed food assistance donated by the Government of Iraq to 70,000 people in the besieged cities of Haditha and Al-Baghdadi in Anbar governorate - the first time WFP assistance has reached the two cities since April 2015. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) covered the cost of handling, transporting and distributing the 1,050 mt of mixed food commodities.

### Situation Update

- WFP remote monitoring demonstrated that in October, food consumption scores of IDPs living in camps continued to deteriorate. Almost one third of all IDPs reported resorting to negative food-based coping strategies, as they did not have enough food or money to buy food. In Duhok, one out of every ten households reported inadequate food consumption - almost triple the national average of 4 percent.

- Millions of Muslim pilgrims are en route to visit holy shrines in Karbala, southwest of Baghdad, for the ceremony of Arbaeen. Civilian processions began on 25 November, delaying access for vehicles along major traffic routes until the end of the ceremony on 03 December. To overcome blocked supply routes, WFP completed distributions in the southern governorates early in the month.

### WFP Response

- Through EMOP 200677, WFP aims to assist 2.2 million displaced and conflict-affected people in Iraq per month through three modalities: Family Food Parcels (FFPs); vouchers; and three-day Immediate Response Rations (IRRs). However, due to pipeline issues and continued access constraints, WFP has reviewed its levels of assistance and now reaches 1.5 million people per month.
- Following assessments and the start of targeted assistance in August, WFP aims to assist 60,000 Syrian refugees residing in nine camps across Iraq with vouchers as part of the regional **EMOP 200433** to assist those displaced by the Syria conflict.
- WFP leads three inter-agency Clusters to coordinate humanitarian action on the ground. Co-led with FAO, the Food Security Cluster works with local partners at the governorate and national level to coordinate the food security response to the crisis in Iraq. By heading the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters through **Special Operation 200746**—currently under budget revision for extension in time until December 2016—WFP assists UN and NGO partners to ensure an efficient and effective logistics and communications response: 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 in the field.

#### ASSISTANCE FOR IDPs:

##### Family Food Parcels (FFPs)

- In December, WFP will target FFPs to 875,000 million people with access to cooking facilities as part of the two-month distribution cycle, which will reach 1.6 million people across November and December. To continue reaching the most vulnerable, 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. Supporting 40 percent of caloric requirements, the commodities are prioritised to avoid duplication with Public Distribution System rations and include rice, pulses, wheat flour and vegetable oil.

##### Vouchers

- In December, WFP will target 85,000 people in the northern governorates of Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyah with vouchers, injecting over USD 800,000 into the local economy. To align with reductions to in-kind assistance, voucher

distributions are calibrated by family size, and the 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, allowing beneficiaries to choose their preferred commodities.

- Targeting one million of the most food insecure beneficiaries in 2016, WFP will begin gradually transitioning its beneficiaries in urban and peri-urban areas of Iraq from vouchers to cash next year.

**Immediate Response Rations (IRRs)**

- In collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA and NGO partners, WFP provides IRRs to recent returnees and newly displaced families through a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). IRRs consist of portable ready-to-eat rations which can feed a family of five for three days.
- In November, over 88,000 people were reached with IRRs in Anbar, Baghdad, Diyala, Duhok, Kirkuk and Salah al-Din governorates, including those affected by the recent floods.

**ASSISTANCE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES:**

- WFP is channeling its limited resources towards providing monthly vouchers to 60,000 Syrian refugees in camps who are the most vulnerable to food insecurity. Food insecure refugees 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 as they are able to access food sources with their own means.
- WFP and partners are conducting a food security and vulnerability assessment for non-camp refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Results, expected in early December, will inform WFP’s support to food insecure Syrian refugees who live in the community in 2016, subject to availability of funding.
- Due to military operations, WFP was unable to deliver food commodities to Al-Obaidi camp in beleaguered Anbar governorate for the sixth month. WFP is monitoring the situation closely with local partners and UN agencies, and in-kind food assistance will resume as soon as access is re-established.

**Clusters**   

- WFP-led Clusters have submitted their inputs to the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which is currently being finalised and will be launched in December. The HRP seeks to recalibrate the UN’s humanitarian response to the situation in Iraq for next year; the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), a

summary of the most pressing humanitarian problems, is also under review to inform the HRP appeal.

**Food Security Cluster (FSC)**

- The FSC held its first meeting in Kirkuk in November, with ten partners participating to share updates on food security activities and challenges they are facing. FSC focal points in Kirkuk are reaching out to partners in the governorate to establish a local network of contacts; the next meeting is planned for mid-December.

**Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)**

- The ETC is evaluating applications for a technical training course in Erbil in mid-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.

**Logistics Cluster**

- The first trucks of non-food items (NFIs) have begun arriving at Logistics Cluster warehouses in Erbil and Baghdad. The shipment, contributed by USAID/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), is worth USD 75 million and is coming in over 900 trucks (67,500 m<sup>3</sup>); NFIs will be allocated to organisations on the ground to support the UN’s humanitarian response.

**Resourcing Update** 

- A total of USD 45 million is required until May 2016 under Budget Revision 6 of EMOP 200677. The operation has received generous funding from donors in November, including a recent contribution of USD 10.5 million from Germany. The operation requires sustained support throughout 2016 to continue assisting those in need and allow for contingency stocks of food to enable a rapid response to future mass displacement or return.
- WFP’s Syrian refugee response in Iraq has a project shortfall of USD 13.3 million for the upcoming three months (December 2015– February 2016). A total of USD 25.7 million is required until May 2016 under Budget Revision 16 of EMOP 200433. If the necessary funding is not received for next year, WFP will be forced to make cutbacks in assistance to food-insecure Syrian refugees across the country.

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**“Food assistance is the backbone of life here in this camp”**

Hasan is 25 years old. His displacement started in January, when he and his family were harassed after he refused to join a local militia group. Hasan fled to Kirkuk, but could not find work. “It’s impossible. I’m disappointed, as I finished my studies without getting a good job”. He could not go home to his family, for fear of being forcibly recruited: “My family’s fear for my life is growing... armed groups continue to ask about me.”

To escape the conflict, Hasan fled south to Basrah. Like many in the camp, he cannot find any income, but is getting by with rations from WFP. “When I reached Basrah, I started receiving food from the World Food Programme... the food assistance was the backbone of life here in this camp.” Thanks to the support of donors and partners, WFP is able to help people like Hasan meet their food needs and survive in the midst of war, far from family and from home.



Basrah – WFP/Mohammed Albahhani

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](http://wfp.org/countries/iraq)



WFP SAYS NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN