



Standard Project Report 2015

World Food Programme in Iraq, Republic of (IQ)

Support to Vulnerable Groups

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2015

Project Information	
Project Number	200035
Project Category	Single Country PRRO
Overall Planned Beneficiaries	655,900
Planned Beneficiaries in 2015	21,000
Total Beneficiaries in 2015	20,795

Key Project Dates	
Project Approval Date	February 10, 2010
Planned Start Date	August 01, 2010
Actual Start Date	August 01, 2010
Project End Date	December 31, 2016
Financial Closure Date	N/A

Approved budget in USD	
Food and Related Costs	50,960,880
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	3,735,989
Direct Support Costs	25,540,350
Cash-Based Transfers and Related Costs	10,066,507
Indirect Support Costs	6,321,261
Total	96,624,986

Commodities	Metric Tonnes
Planned Commodities in 2015	840
Actual Commodities 2015	449
Total Approved Commodities	25,682

Table Of Contents

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Country Background

Summary Of WFP Assistance

OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

Results

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

Story Worth Telling

Progress Towards Gender Equality

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Outputs

Outcomes

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

Inputs

Resource Inputs

Food Purchases and In-Kind Receipts

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

Post-Delivery Losses

Management

Partnerships

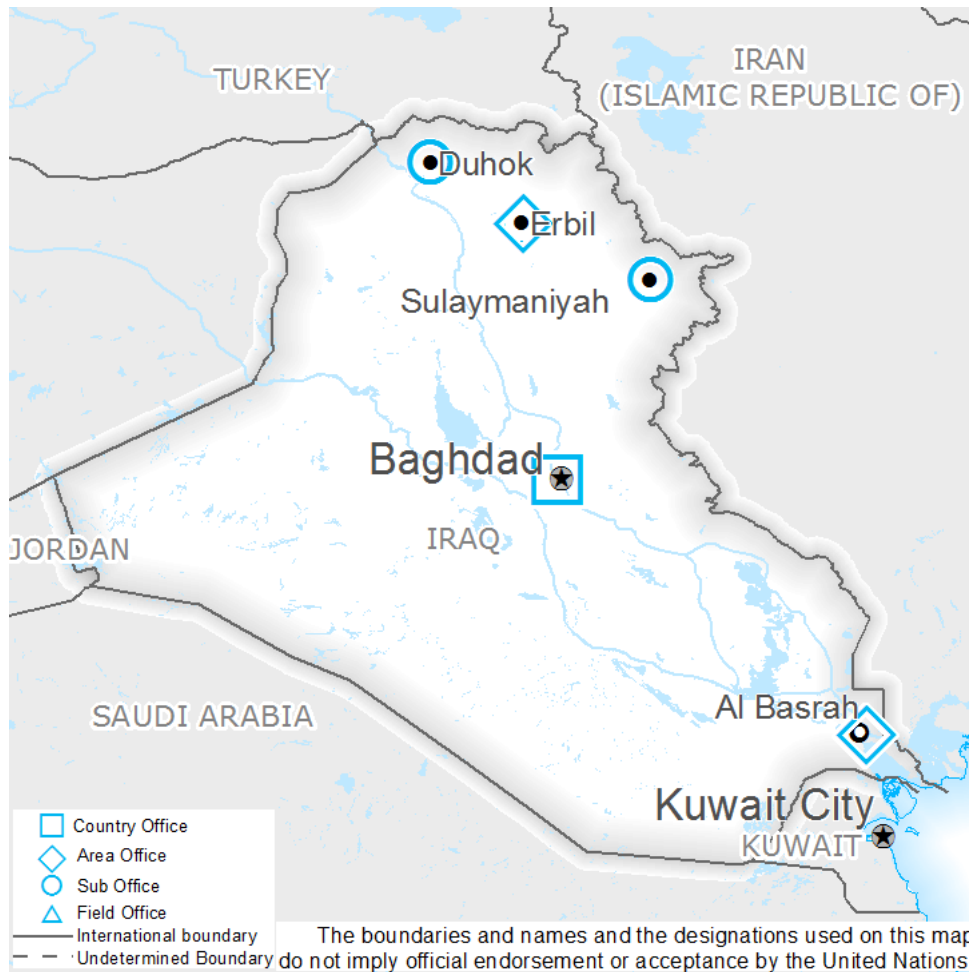
Lessons Learned

Operational Statistics

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

COUNTRY OVERVIEW



Country Background

With a population of 34 million, Iraq is a middle-income country ranked 121 out of 188 in the 2014 UNDP Human Development Index. Despite notable development gains, recurrent bouts of political instability, conflict, and economic stressors have contributed to unprecedented levels of humanitarian need and food insecurity. The current conflict between armed groups and pro-government forces has left 3.2 million Iraqis internally displaced. According to the 2015 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 2.4 million people, including internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees and other vulnerable groups, are food insecure across Iraq and forced to rely on severe and often irreversible negative coping strategies.

Iraq ranks 22 out of 50 on the 2015 Global Hunger Index at a 'serious' level of hunger. Violent conflict and protracted displacement have severely disrupted access to affordable and nutritious food, preventing many Iraqis from meeting their basic food needs. Historically, food insecurity in Iraq is a result of war and sanctions, creating obstacles to international trade, which has been aggravated by the plunge in global oil prices, upon which the government is dependent for 90 percent of its revenues. As a result, public infrastructure and social safety nets have deteriorated and access to basic social services, including food and clean water, remains a challenge for many Iraqis. Women and girls are often more adversely affected by these issues due to conservative religious, social and cultural norms and discrimination that limit their rights and their ability to participate in the public sphere. This is compounded by violent conflict threatening their safety and security. Such factors are reflected in Iraq's Gender Inequality Index value of 0.539 and ranking at 123 out of 155 countries in 2014.

Compounded by severe droughts, Iraq's ability to produce food, including wheat flour for the national Public Distribution System (PDS), has been stymied by the intensification of conflict, which has left key agricultural areas under the control of armed groups. The twin shocks of conflict and economic decline have disrupted the PDS of basic food entitlements, upon which the poorest Iraqis relied for over half of their energy intake. The PDS is currently implemented sporadically and irregularly: not all commodities are distributed each month and not all IDPs are able to access the PDS in their current location.

Iraq has made progress toward achieving some of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) including MDG 1, eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. There is still much work to be done in a number of crucial areas including MDG 2, achieving universal primary education. In 2013, 95 percent of children were completing primary education, although this has decreased due to the current conflict. Alongside the government, WFP worked toward the achievement of MDG 2, through support to school feeding.

Summary Of WFP Assistance

WFP provided support to Iraq populations and its complex challenges through three projects. Launched in April 2014 to assist an initial 240,000 displaced people from Anbar governorate, Emergency Operation (EMOP) 200677 was rapidly expanded through Budget Revision (BR) 4 to provide emergency assistance to the growing needs of 2.2 million food insecure people. Working across all 18 governorates of Iraq, WFP addressed the urgent food needs of Iraqis affected by the conflict through monthly entitlements of Family Food Parcels and cash-based transfers using a voucher modality. Designed as a nimble approach to overcome access constraints and gaps in humanitarian presence, the inter-agency Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) allowed WFP to reach people on the move with three-day Immediate Response Rations (IRRs). WFP strengthened its support and technical assistance to the government to assist with the resumption of the PDS. As co-lead of the Food Security Cluster, alongside FAO, WFP coordinated the responses of humanitarian actors on the ground who were engaged in the provision of food assistance to avoid duplication of efforts and minimise gaps.

Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) 200035 provided support to vulnerable groups, aimed to improve social protection and food security for vulnerable households affected by the instability. Through the provision of technical support and strategic guidance to the government, WFP planned to provide technical assistance to strengthen the government's capacity to plan, design and implement effective social safety net programmes. The school feeding programme, previously suspended in January 2014, was piloted in Thi Qar governorate in early 2015, reaching over 20,000 students in 72 schools across the governorate.

Through the Regional EMOP 200433, launched in July 2012, WFP responded to the food security needs of vulnerable Syrian refugees in Iraq through monthly food assistance and cash-based transfers. WFP assisted over 100,000 Syrian refugees in nine camps in Iraq, reducing the total beneficiaries to 60,000 in August following a comprehensive vulnerability assesment.

Through Special Operation 200746, WFP provided the humanitarian community with a coordinated logistics response and improved emergency telecommunications capabilities. These common services helped to ensure efficient and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	136,974	136,637	273,611
Children (5-18 years)	374,976	334,241	709,217
Adults (18 years plus)	496,945	483,324	980,269
Total number of beneficiaries in 2015	1,008,895	954,202	1,963,097

Distribution (mt)						
Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country EMOP	4,911	509	1,285	40	22,470	29,215
Single Country PRRO	0	0	0	0	449	449
Total Food Distributed in 2015	4,911	509	1,285	40	22,919	29,664

OPERATIONAL SPR

Operational Objectives and Relevance

Aligned with WFP's Strategic Objectives 2 and 3, and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2015-2019, PRRO 200035 aimed to improve social protection and food security for vulnerable households. The operation consisted of capacity development for the Government of Iraq through three activities: a locally sourced school feeding programme, technical assistance for the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and support to establish a Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS).

Following widespread displacement in early 2014 and a subsequent IDP crisis, planned distributions under school feeding programme were suspended and only capacity development and technical assistance activities were conducted. In February 2015, a new school feeding programme was piloted in Thi Qar governorate, one of the most food insecure governorates in Iraq before the conflict. WFP aimed to provide capacity development to support the government's ability to plan, procure, and distribute food to schools. Having exclusively provided imported high energy biscuits (HEBs) in previous years, the pilot school feeding programme provided a locally sourced, diverse food basket in line with beneficiaries' preferences and national priorities. The shift from HEBs to the locally sourced food basket came from several meetings and discussions among WFP and government ministries including the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.

WFP aimed to provide support and technical assistance to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to strengthen the government's capacity to plan, design and implement effective social safety net programmes. This activity's objective was to enhance the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs' ability to better target vulnerable groups in accordance with the Social Protection Law passed in 2014.

To support the government in conducting national food security analysis, including policy impact analysis, WFP planned to support the establishment of a national FSMS, by providing training to staff in the Central Statistical Organisation and Kurdistan Regional Statistical Office.

Results

Beneficiaries, Targeting and Distribution

After the school feeding programme was halted in 2014 due to concern over the quality of the imported commodities, WFP re-started its cooperation with the Ministry of Education by piloting a new approach to school feeding in Iraq, redesigning the food basket and introducing local procurement. A project management committee was formed with members drawn from the Ministries of Education, Health, and Planning, which agreed that a school feeding pilot programme was to be introduced in February targeting 21,000 school children aged 6 to 12 in 72 primary schools. The district of Al Chibaish, in the southern governorate of Thi Qar, was chosen on the basis of poverty indicators according to data from the United Nations Assistance Mission to Iraq (UNAMI). School children received a locally sourced food basket, consisting of a piece of fruit, bread, cheese, and a drink of milk or fruit juice, which provided approximately 470 kcal per day (26 percent of daily requirements). For the duration of the second semester, school children received meals on every school day.

The total number of days and tonnage was lower than planned, partly because WFP faced issues with one local caterer. After two weeks, WFP was able to replace the caterer and continued to cover all schools as planned. In addition, while WFP initially planned to feed students until the end of the school year, students are not obliged to come to school during examination preparation, hence it was decided to stop school feeding with the beginning of the examination period. There were also some religious holidays during which schools were closed. Lastly, the number of entitlements was revised downwards in the course of the activity as more information on the actual number of school children became available in the targeted district. Despite these issues, WFP succeeded in reaching the vast majority of planned beneficiaries for this activity. A lower female enrollment rate (83.2 percent, as compared to 93.6 percent for males) meant that fewer girls attended school than boys, and therefore fewer girls received school meals.

The capacity development and training activities planned for the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs did not occur as planned. After high levels of insecurity in June 2014, most WFP staff were relocated from Baghdad to the

Kurdistan Region of Iraq and remained stationed there for much of 2015. Moreover, mass population displacement from central Iraq to the northern governorates pushed WFP and other organizations to focus on supporting IDPs. Similarly, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs re-focused its capacity on IDP assistance, and hence the WFP-assisted activities did not take place as planned due to the prioritisation of emergency assistance. In order to mitigate against such challenges in 2016, WFP intensified the planning processes with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Total Beneficiaries	11,550	9,450	21,000	11,229	9,566	20,795	97.2%	101.2%	99.0%
By Age-group:									
Children (5-18 years)	11,550	9,450	21,000	11,229	9,566	20,795	97.2%	101.2%	99.0%
By Residence status:									
Internally displaced persons (IDPs)	-	-	-	22	19	41	-	-	-
Residents	11,550	9,450	21,000	11,207	9,547	20,754	97.0%	101.0%	98.8%

Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
School Feeding (on-site)	21,000	-	21,000	20,795	-	20,795	99.0%	-	99.0%

Beneficiary Category	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
School Feeding (on-site)									
Children receiving school meals in primary schools	11,550	9,450	21,000	11,229	9,566	20,795	97.2%	101.2%	99.0%
Total participants	11,550	9,450	21,000	11,229	9,566	20,795	97.2%	101.2%	99.0%
Total beneficiaries	11,550	9,450	21,000	11,229	9,566	20,795	97.2%	101.2%	99.0%

The total number of beneficiaries includes all targeted persons who were provided with WFP food/cash/vouchers during the reporting period - either as a recipient/participant or from a household food ration distributed to one of these recipients/participants.

Commodity	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual v. Planned
Rations	840	449	53.4%
Total	840	449	53.4%

Story Worth Telling

Hanin is six years old and attends primary school in Al Fuhood, a sub-district of Thi Qar governorate in southern Iraq. Her mother is ill and cannot look after Hanin properly at home, meaning Hanin was often unable to get breakfast before school. Hanin dreams of becoming a doctor to be able to care for her mother, but her grades were

falling behind: she could not concentrate in lessons, complete her homework, or even attend school regularly due to difficult conditions at home.

Prolonged conflict, and economic decline have left a large section of the Iraqi population, including Hanin's family, caught in the poverty trap. Weakened social safety nets and barriers to employment opportunities exacerbate food insecurity for the most vulnerable groups, particularly young people and women.

Since her school was enrolled in WFP's school feeding programme, Hanin can have a nutritious breakfast. Each day, Hanin receives bread and cheese, along with a piece of fruit and a glass of milk or juice. Now she can focus in class and smile a lot more too. "I'm happy to go to school now, because I get delicious food," Hanin said. "I will finally be able to become a doctor and treat my mother." Thanks to WFP, donors and partners, school meals provide students like Hanin with the energy to succeed at school, as well as a sense of relief that school is a safe and nurturing place in the midst of conflict.

Progress Towards Gender Equality

Iraq's male-dominated culture is a challenging environment in which to implement gender-equitable programming, as women typically have a limited role in the public sphere. WFP has strived to implement a number of measures, such as gender-specific focus groups, to address gender challenges in the country.

Throughout the programme's implementation, WFP considered the important role of women in children's nutrition and well-being, and collected gender-disaggregated data which supported advocacy and sensitisation activities. WFP conducted two training sessions on the school feeding programme for Ministry of Education staff, of which 26 percent of participants were women, and 25 percent of the training team were women. The Ministry of Education staff who participated in the trainings were involved in the direct implementation of the programme, including distributions and monitoring. As the participation of women in local parent-teacher associations (PTA) was limited, WFP sought to address this by listening to the voices of females in other forums by holding two female-only focus group discussions, along with others that included women, in order to learn about women's perceptions and expectations towards the school feeding programme. In these discussions, women highlighted the positive impact of school feeding on households headed by women. As indicated by several schools' headmasters, the meals were a great support for the food security of these families who were often facing serious financial difficulties.

While more boys were enrolled in school than girls, school meals were distributed to boys and girls equally which promoted equal access to food.

Although WFP promoted the inclusion of women in project management committees, there were low numbers of women in key leadership positions. This reality is indicative of wider societal trends in Iraq. In 2016, WFP will continue to encourage more women to take on leadership roles relating to project management through capacity building. Internally, WFP nominated two staff members, one national and one international, as gender focal points, who served to advise WFP on gender issues in all operations, including programme planning and implementation.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of women beneficiaries in leadership positions of project management committees				
<i>IRAQ, Capacity Development , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=30.00	17.00		25.00

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

WFP maintained its commitment to ensuring the safety, dignity and integrity of beneficiaries.

The project management committee, comprising representatives from the Ministries of Education, Health, and Planning at the national and local levels, the PTA, the Integrity Commission, the Teachers' Association, and WFP, provided a key forum to increase trust and confidence of local actors in WFP, and ensured a space for consensus building and transparency. Furthermore, WFP conducted missions to Thi Qar, connecting with children, parents, teachers, and the school administration in the pilot area in order to listen to their concerns and suggestions about the activity.

The security situation in Thi Qar remained relatively stable, and children were largely able to attend school as normal, outside of temporary closures directed by the Ministry of Education. Few protection or safety-related problems were reported by project management committee members or Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs staff when participating in WFP activities or travelling to sites. On one occasion, fighting between two tribes in the area broke out, preventing several students from being able to reach school. In case of future safety issues, WFP will work with local authorities and other humanitarian agencies to find an appropriate solution.

As no distributions took place under the PRRO in 2014, this was the first year that WFP collected data on the proportion of assisted people experiencing safety issues.

Before the beginning of the activity, a team from WFP and the Ministry of Education conducted meetings with the local PTA to inform them of planned activities, reporting lines, responsibilities of all project stakeholders, and monitoring and evaluation. To follow up, WFP held three focus group discussions with students and the PTA in schools, with the objective of understanding perceptions and opinions on the project, the food basket, information dissemination, and avenues for feedback. Findings showed a high level of acceptance among participants, especially regarding the variety of commodities included in the food basket. Areas of improvement included a more effective and wide-reaching information campaign, and strengthening feedback mechanisms for the children and families to report issues.

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
Proportion of assisted people (men) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>IRAQ, School Feeding (on-site) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	50.00		
Proportion of assisted people (men) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>IRAQ, Capacity Development , Project End Target: 2015.06 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=90.00	100.00		99.00
Proportion of assisted people (women) informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>IRAQ, School Feeding (on-site) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	50.00		
Proportion of assisted people (women) who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme sites				
<i>IRAQ, Capacity Development , Project End Target: 2015.06 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=90.00	100.00		99.00
Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, where people can complain)				
<i>IRAQ, School Feeding (on-site) , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	50.00		
Proportion of assisted people who do not experience safety problems travelling to, from and/or at WFP programme site				
<i>IRAQ, Capacity Development , Project End Target: 2015.06 , Base value: 2014.12 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=90.00	100.00		99.00

Outputs

WFP achieved strong results against output targets. The total number of feeding days and thus the total tonnage was lower than planned due to delays early in the activity, an earlier end date according to the examination period and a revised total of entitlements according to new information on enrolment. However, food distributions took place according to the planned distribution schedule. WFP was able to successfully implement the school feeding

pilot and achieve its targets for that activity. However, serious security challenges across much of the country hampered the implementation of the WFP-assisted activity with Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

The partnership with the Ministry of Education was mainly related to developing their capacity to design, manage, and monitor a school feeding programme. WFP originally planned to target Ministry of Education staff with one training session on school feeding implementation and monitoring and evaluation which was conducted at the start of the project cycle. This was complemented with a refresher training session organised half-way through project implementation, specifically to ensure high quality data collection under the monitoring and reporting activities. At the same time, WFP cooperated with the Ministry of Education at the national and local levels, as well as with local authorities, in order to manage the day-to-day implementation of the school feeding programme, and to take corrective action if needed. For this purpose, a project management committee was formed, with which four meetings were held during the reporting period, which were crucial in supporting the government in information sharing, as well as in making informed decisions based on the data collected through joint monitoring by WFP and the Ministry of Education.

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
SO2: School Feeding (on-site)				
Number of national assessments/data collection exercises in which food security and nutrition were integrated with WFP support	exercise	2	2	100.0
Number of primary schools assisted by WFP	school	72	72	100.0
Number of technical assistance activities provided	activity	1	6	600.0

Outcomes

Capacity development was the main objective of the school feeding programme for WFP, who maintained robust engagement with key government partners in order to develop this tailor-made school feeding programme in accordance with national priorities. WFP met its target for the improvement of government capacity, as shown by the National Capacity Index, which was assessed as 15 out of 20 in cooperation with all interested ministries and local authorities.

Baseline and follow-up assessments were conducted in cooperation with the Ministries of Education, Health, and Planning as a tool to be used by the government for future planning and an extended roll-out of school feeding. These tools had the dual aim of measuring the impact of the programme on attendance and eating habits, and establishing the capacity for results measurement within the government. Diversifying the food intake of primary school children was one of the main objectives for the Ministry of Education, and WFP managed to distribute the diversified food basket for a higher average number of days per month than planned. The percentage of pupils who bought food to eat at school decreased from 69 to 38 percent due to the size of the entitlement. Since the school shops usually sell pre-packed and unhealthy food items, these achievements represent progress in improving the variety of food intake for these school children, as well as a possibility for significant reductions in hunger. A key objective of the Ministry of Education for the school feeding programme was to incentivise children to attend school, which was also a secondary objective for WFP. Moreover, results showed that attendance rates improved from 88 percent for boys and 96 percent for girls before the start of the project, to 95 and 97 percent respectively during the implementation phase.

While other activities were not carried out as planned, WFP maintained its relationship with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, and will continue its efforts to undertake capacity development in 2016.

Outcome	Project End Target	Base Value	Previous Follow-up	Latest Follow-up
SO2 Support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies				
Stabilized or reduced undernutrition, including micronutrient deficiencies among children aged 6–59 months, pregnant and lactating women, and school-aged children				
Average number of schooldays per month on which multi-fortified foods or at least 4 food groups were provided				
<i>IRAQ , Project End Target: 2015.02 , Base value: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring</i>	=16.00	19.00	-	-
Capacity developed to address national food insecurity needs				
NCI: Safety net programmes National Capacity Index				
<i>IRAQ , Project End Target: 2015.12 , Base value: 2015.12 WFP programme monitoring</i>	=15.00	15.00	-	-

Sustainability, Capacity Development and Handover

WFP is committed to working with the government to enhance technical and operational capacities, to promote national ownership of food security solutions, and to facilitate a gradual hand-over in line with the government's own policies.

Through the establishment of a project management committee and a project steering committee, WFP was able to ensure a participatory process with stakeholders during the school feeding programme. At the end of the academic year, WFP and government counterparts continued constructive discussions on the implementation and expansion of the programme for the next academic year, as part of the government's broader national social protection system.

WFP has made investments in building government capacities for local procurement. WFP procurement processes were introduced to the different government institutions including the Ministry of Education. Using locally procured commodities, WFP was able to support the local economy and enhance the capacity of suppliers to move towards stronger procurement, enhanced production capacity, and more competitive tendering processes.

Inputs

Resource Inputs

The project was fully funded, as WFP financed the school feeding programme from project reserves stemming from previous contributions from the Government of Iraq. Thanks to this support, WFP was able to deliver full food entitlements as planned, up until the end of the school feeding activity in May.

Donor	2015 Resourced (mt)		2015 Shipped/Purchased (mt)
	In-Kind	Cash	
Iraq	0	504	449
Total	0	504	449

See Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors for breakdown by commodity and contribution reference number

Food Purchases and In-Kind Receipts

Food was purchased locally, in line with the stated national policy to support the local economy in Iraq. Local purchases and the diversification of suppliers ensured WFP a continuous supply and reduced transportation costs. The pre-packaged food basket consisted of fresh and nutritious items, including fruit (apples, bananas, oranges and dates), cheese, bread, milk and fruit juice. The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health managed quality

control.

Commodities	Local (mt)	Developing Country (mt)	Other International (mt)	GCMF (mt)
Rations	449	0	0	0
Total	449	0	0	0

Food Transport, Delivery and Handling

The local supplier was responsible for the daily transportation of the pre-packaged food via refrigerated truck to the schools, and there were no challenges in this regard. Teachers managed the distributions to the students on a daily basis while food quality staff of the Ministry of Health were in charge of making sure that the school meals reaching the schools were in good condition.

Post-Delivery Losses

WFP worked closely with local suppliers to maintain high standards of food commodity transport and handling. Some 287.98 mt of previously imported HEBs, which were part of the previous school feeding programme and were due to be destroyed in 2014, were reported lost by the government from their warehouses in Anbar and Ninawa governorate. Heavy armed conflict in these areas had prevented WFP and its partners from accessing and destroying the commodities as planned in 2014.

Management

Partnerships

For the implementation of its programmes, WFP worked closely with government, national and local partners. The project management committee represented actors from the national and local levels of the Ministries of Education, Health and Planning, the PTA, the Integrity Commission, the Teachers' Association and WFP. The project management committee provided a key forum for operational discussion, planning and implementation of the school feeding programme, and by incorporating local actors, increased community participation in the project.

Following the suspension of school feeding in 2014, the new school feeding programme offered an opportunity for WFP to revitalise its partnership with the government. The Ministry of Education was the main partner for school feeding from the outset, at both the national and local level, which required extensive consultation, information sharing and coordination. In order to make sure that nutrition was not overlooked in programme design and monitoring, WFP worked closely with the Nutrition Research Institute (NRI) in the Ministry of Health, which supported the design of the food basket and the measurement of nutrition indicators.

WFP continued to work closely with key United Nations partners in 2015, including through the United Nations Country Team. In particular, WFP partnered with UNICEF on water and sanitation, whereby UNICEF conducted hygiene promotion training for 30 teachers from 30 schools and provided a one-day hygiene promotion campaign in five schools for children and families. WFP will continue its engagement with UNICEF in 2016.

WFP signed an agreement with Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs to carry out training and capacity development, although this activity did not take place.

Partnership	NGO		Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement	UN/IO
	National	International		
Total				1

Cross-cutting Indicators	Project End Target	Latest Follow-up
Number of partner organizations that provide complementary inputs and services		
<i>IRAQ, Capacity Development , Project End Target: 2015.06 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=2.00	1.00
Proportion of project activities implemented with the engagement of complementary partners		
<i>IRAQ, Capacity Development , Project End Target: 2015.06 , Latest Follow-up: 2015.12</i>	=100.00	100.00

Lessons Learned

During previous phases of the school feeding programme, WFP adopted a top-down approach, leaving little room for participation from other stakeholders than the central government or for capacity development at the local and regional level to manage school feeding activities. This gap was addressed during the pilot school feeding programme through the establishment of a project management committee, which included all relevant stakeholders, and a project steering committee at a higher level, which included key decision makers from WFP and the Ministries of Education and Health. These structures were a prerequisite for participatory decision making and ensuring national stakeholder ownership. Activities were jointly planned and results critically reviewed by stakeholders who themselves suggested modifications to the implementation modalities. This modality engaged and empowered stakeholders, thus resulting in more sustainable activities.

WFP was able to re-establish itself as the partner of choice for the implementation of a school feeding programme after having to suspend activities in 2014: WFP was able to support the government in articulating an alternative, locally sourced programme that addressed their key concerns, namely ration diversification and strengthening of the local economy. Overall, lessons learned from this pilot school feeding programme stimulated discussions between WFP and the Ministries of Health and Education to rethink issues such as ration composition as well as technical competencies such as information management, strategy formulation and prioritisation of activities.

Operational Statistics

Annex: Participants by Activity and Modality

Activity	Planned			Actual			% Actual v. Planned		
	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total	Food	CBT	Total
School Feeding (on-site)	21,000	-	21,000	20,795	-	20,795	99.0%	-	99.0%

Annex: Resource Inputs from Donors

Donor	Cont. Ref. No.	Commodity	Resourced in 2015 (mt)		Shipped/Purchased in 2015 (mt)
			In-Kind	Cash	
Iraq	IRQ-C-00008-01	Rations	0	504	449
Total			0	504	449