Iraq Crisis Situation Report #29  3 November 2015

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 Nineva, 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.
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.

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