Iraq Funding: Emergency Operation

Required until December 2015: **US$235 million**

### Highlights

- Having regained access to Salah al-Din governorate for the first time since September, WFP worked with Mercy Corps to distribute Immediate Response Rations (IRRs) to approximately 2,500 people in the recently liberated district of Dhuluiya. The area had been besieged for several months, with shortages of food and medicines reported.

- Despite snow and below-zero temperatures, WFP partnered with Mercy Corps in Arbat Camp, Sulaymaniyyah governorate, to assist the recent influx of people displaced by fighting in Salah al-Din governorate. Some 875 people received IRRs on 10 January, 24 hours after having arrived at the camp.

- Collaborating with partners *Agency d’Aide à la Coopération Technique et au Développement* (ACTED) and UNICEF, WFP distributed IRRs for 1,145 displaced people in Muthanna governorate on 3 January who had been displaced by military operations in western Iraq.

### Fighting Update

- Fighting continues in western, north-western and central Iraq between Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) militants and Iraqi Security Forces, including Kurdish Peshmerga, and other armed groups. The violence continues to cause displacement.

- After many areas around Mount Sinjar in northern Nineawa governorate were liberated from the control of ISIL militants, WFP and other humanitarian agencies have been on standby to provide assistance, where it is required.

- There is grave concern for the food security of people in the besieged city of Al Baghdadi, Anbar governorate, which is reported to be suffering serious shortages of food and medicines. WFP continues to monitor the situation closely, and will distribute food assistance to affected areas whenever it can gain access.

### WFP Response

- Aiming to provide food assistance to people as part of its *Emergency Operation*, WFP tailors its assistance to meet specific needs, deploying three-day rations, monthly rations or food vouchers.

- In 2014, WFP reached **over 1 million people** with food assistance in Iraq.

- Now successfully delivering and distributing food across all 18 governorates of Iraq, WFP food assistance reaches displaced and food insecure people where it’s most needed.

- By heading Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters (ETC) through a *Special Operation*, WFP assists both non-governmental organizations (NGO) and UN partners with transport, warehouses, communications and internet access. The Logistics Cluster has 60 partners and offers 2,290 square meters of storage in two strategically positioned warehouses, whilst the ETC has 31 partners, and approximately 200 humanitarian staff members use its IT systems. Co-leading the Food Security Cluster alongside FAO, WFP coordinates the food assistance response across Iraq.
Vulnerable families who have recently arrived in camps, urban areas or living with host communities, receive portable ready-to-eat food. One IRR provides a family of five with food for three days.

A provision of specialized nutritional supplements has been added to the IRRs for children aged between six months and five years, as a pre-emptive measure to maintain nutritional status.

IRRs are distributed under the RRM in partnership with ACTED, Norwegian Refugee Council, Danish Refugee Council, Mercy Corps, and Save the Children International (SCI). In January, RRM distributions have taken place in Sulaymaniyah, Salah al-Din and Muthanna governorates.

### FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR SETTLED PEOPLE:

#### Family Food Parcels (FFPs)

- For families who are temporarily settled and have access to cooking facilities, WFP provides a one month FFP. These substantial rations include basic food essentials such as rice, lentils, and salt, and are nutritionally designed to meet the daily intake requirements of a family of five for 30 days.

- Since 1 January 2015, WFP has assisted approximately 205,000 people with FFPs in Duhok, Sulaymaniyah, Diyala, Kirkuk, Ninewa, Missan, Basrah, Kerbala, Thi-Qar, Wasit, Babil and Najaf governorates. FFPs are distributed in partnership with ACTED, Action Contre La Faim (ACF), Barzani Charity Foundation, Iraqi Salvation Humanitarian Organisation, Islamic Kurdish League, Civil Development Organisation, and Muslim Aid.

#### Vouchers

- WFP is distributing food vouchers to displaced people in Erbil governorate, Zakho city in Duhok, and three districts in Sulaymaniyah, partnering with World Vision International (WVI), ACF and Save the Children International (SCI).

- Each family member receives one food voucher per month, worth US$26, or 30,000 Iraqi Dinars. These can be redeemed at selected local shops, empowering families to select their preferred goods. In January, approximately 191,000 displaced people have received WFP food vouchers.

- WFP initiates voucher transfers only in locations where the markets are considered reliable and will not be adversely affected by the programme.

### Logistics

- So far in January, Logistics has dispatched 4,0229 FFPs and 950 IRRs, equivalent to 2,757,5 mt.

### Clusters

#### Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- In response to the recent liberation of many areas in northern Ninewa governorate, the FSC has been coordinating with other agencies to make contingency plans for assistance, ensuring a fast and coordinated humanitarian response once these areas become accessible.

- To best address the complex needs of people returning to their homes following displacement, the FSC has released Standard Operating Procedures for partner organisations assisting returnees.

#### Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

- Strengthening the security of humanitarian actors who are working in the field to assist displaced Iraqis, ETC staff continue to enhance radio networks in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Telecommunications specialists recently added new channels to the digital radio network in Sulaymaniyah, and expanded coverage of the analogue network.

#### Logistics Cluster (LC)

- The LC helps to maintain the flow of emergency assistance to those who need it by facilitating storage and transportation solutions for humanitarian partners. The LC Duhok warehouse is currently storing 7.5 mt of items for InterSOS, consisting of blankets, family tents and kitchen items.

### Resourcing Update

- The Emergency Operation in Iraq requires an additional US$235 million, to prevent a partial pipeline break for vouchers in March, and a complete pipeline break for all types of food assistance in April.

- The increased requirements come as a result of a budget revision, initiated in response to the increasing number of people displaced by violence, and in line with inter-agency planning.

### Contacts

**Country Director:** Jane Pearce
Jane.pearce@wfp.org

**Food Security Cluster Coordinator:** Barb Wigley
Barb.wigley@wfp.org

**Logistics Cluster Coordinator:** Jean-Emile Canu
Jeanemile.canu@wfp.org

**Emergency Telecommunications Cluster:** iraq.etc@wfp.org

### WFP IN ACTION: Winter Weather a Challenge for People Fleeing to Sulaymaniyah

When violence forces people to flee their homes, there is often barely time to pick up essential identification documents, let alone blankets and cooking equipment. People recently arrived in Arbat Camp, Sulaymaniyah governorate, after escaping the violence in Salah al-Din governorate. Mobilising assistance within 24 hours, WFP and UNICEF collaborated with Mercy Corps to distribute WFP ready-to-eat IRRs alongside UNICEF hygiene kits and bottled water. Part of the distribution took place in the midst of a snow storm, a reminder of the hardships faced by IDPs in northern Iraq.

**IN DECEMBER, WFP ASSISTED APPROXIMATELY 107,400 DISPLACED PEOPLE IN SULAYMANIYAH**

**Iraq: EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR IDPs IN IRAQ** wfp.org/countries/Iraq