



# WFP Iraq Country Brief

## WFP Assistance

### Internally Displaced Persons

Emergency Assistance to Populations Affected by the Iraq Crisis	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements (in USD)**
EMOP 200677 (April 2014- Dec 2017)	1.1 b	685 m	37 m (34 %)
Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2020)	218.8	n.a.*	

\*Will be reported starting January 2018  
\*\*December 2017 - May 2018

WFP assisted 754,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Iraq in November 2017 through Family Food Rations (FFRs) and Cash-Based Transfers (CBTs). FFRs include basic food items, such as wheat flour, rice, beans, bulgur and vegetable oil. CBTs take the form of e-vouchers, unrestricted cash and Mobile Money Transfers (MMT). WFP provided Immediate Response Rations (IRRs) to a total 71,426 people displaced by the ISF's campaign to regain disputed areas in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), those affected by the military offensive to retake Western Anbar, and a small number in need of immediate assistance following the Iraq-Iran earthquake on 12 November. IRRs provide ready-to-eat food to a family of five for three days as they flee from conflict areas, with multiple IRRs going to larger families and those moving from location to location. WFP also carries out regular vulnerability assessments and monitoring in order to ensure appropriate assistance reaches those who need it most. WFP also co-leads, in cooperation with FAO, the Food Security Cluster, to ensure a coordinated, efficient and effective sectoral humanitarian assistance.

### Syrian Refugees

Assistance to Vulnerable Syrian Refugees in Iraq	Total Requirements (in USD)	Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
Regional PRRO 200987 (January 2017- Dec 2018)	58 m	19 m

\*December 2017 - May 2018

As part of the regional Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), WFP provides CBTs to 57,000 Syrian refugees residing in nine camps across KR-I. All those receiving assistance get USD 19 (IQD 22,000) per person, per month. Distributions are managed through WFP's

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Saif Altatooz  
Caption: WFP staff in Baghdad commemorate the 16 Days of Orange Activism on 05 December.

# Highlights

- Following the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) retaking of al-Qaim in western Anbar on 03 December, Iraqi Prime Minister Al-Abadi announced 10 December as a national holiday, Victory Day, celebrating ISF's removal of the last Islamic State of the Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) stronghold in Iraq.
- In November, WFP assisted 754,000 Iraqis governorates through the emergency operation and 57,000 Syrian refugees as part of the regional response. Additionally it distributed Immediate Response Rations to 71,000 people.
- On 12 November, an earthquake of 7.2-7.5 magnitude struck along the Iraq-Iran border. Despite its magnitude, there was no effect on WFP's operations and only a small amount of immediate food assistance was distributed.

electronic SCOPE platform. Following a resilience pilot project in August, providing skills training to Syrians, a computer lab has been set up in Arbat camps. Participants who have successfully graduated from the training are now enrolled in an internship programme with local companies to further enhance their employment opportunities, with WFP paying the cost of transportation. WFP has been supporting Syrian refugees in Iraq since 2012.

### Humanitarian Support

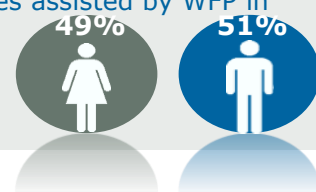
Special Operation - Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunications Support in Iraq	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
SO 200746 (April 2014- Dec 2017)	31.4 m	20.2 m (64%)	0 m

\* Until end of 2017

Launched in July 2014, the Special Operation supports the work of the Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC). These two WFP-led clusters coordinate the logistics and emergency telecommunications responses to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance for the entire humanitarian community in Iraq. The ETC is also providing internet access to refugees in Domiz camp, with similar services to be rolled out in other camps.

## In Numbers

**3 million** Iraqis displaced  
**754,000** IDPs who received food entitlements and CBT from WFP in November.  
**245,000** Syrian refugees in Iraq  
**57,000** Syrian refugees assisted by WFP in November



November 2017

## Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan

The t-ICSP will replace WFP's current operations in Iraq and cover January-December 2018. In the way forward, WFP will expand its CBT modality where feasible and allow for increased recovery and resilience building activities.

## Operational Updates

- On 12 November, an earthquake of 7.2-7.5 Richter struck along the Iraq-Iran border, of which approximately 1.8 million people live within the 100 km of the epicentre; several tremors were felt by neighbouring countries. Despite its magnitude, there were no effects to WFP's operations and WFP distributed a small number of IRRs to affected people.
- Iraq is moving towards a post-conflict context, and is preparing for general elections planned for May 2018. The Iraqi government has announced that it expects IDPs to return to their homes by April 2018, with the de-mobilization of the Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) in disputed territories ideally resulting in a more secure and conducive environment for IDPs to return. WFP currently supports about 830,000 IDPs who are mainly in camps, and provides one-off food distributions to communities that are displaced by military operations and were previously inaccessible in informal settlements. In November, this included IRR distributions to people displaced by the military offensive to retake Western Anbar and by the ISF's campaign to regain disputed areas in KR-I.
- The Government of Iraq is preparing a returns process for IDPs, alongside the humanitarian community, which will provide assistance to 350,000 vulnerable IDPs who already live in camps and are part of WFP's response plan. WFP, UNICEF and UNFPA are planning to assess the vulnerability levels of returning IDPs and provide mobility packages through Return Resource Centres established by the Government of Iraq. Assistance will cover water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs, non-food items, as well as one IRR per household, and two months of general food assistance to returnees (either in-kind food or cash-based transfers), depending on market conditions.

## Challenges

- Ongoing non-combative military operations consisting of troop movements in the area between Mosul and IDP camps are affecting access to routes in the area.

## Funding Update

- While WFP Iraq does not require further funding to support IDP or refugee operations in 2017, it requires contributions for 2018. The anticipated net funding requirement for the first six months of 2018 is USD 121.5 million. This will be used to assist IDPs and Syrian refugees, and support the humanitarian community with logistics and telecommunications support.

## Country Background & Strategy



In the past, vulnerability to food insecurity in Iraq was chiefly a result of obstacles to international trade – provoked by war and sanctions – impeding the export of oil and import of food. Since 2014, instability due to conflict is the main driver of food insecurity.

In April 2014, WFP launched an Emergency Programme to respond to the food needs of 240,000 displaced people from Anbar governorate. Following mass displacement and ongoing conflict, WFP continues to provide food assistance each month across the country.

Throughout 2016 and 2017, Iraq witnessed an escalation in the conflict between Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and fighters from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). This fighting has left millions displaced and unable to meet their dietary needs and food preferences. WFP works with the Government of Iraq to strengthen social safety nets, particularly the Public Distribution System (PDS).

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 2 on zero hunger and SDG 17 on partnerships, WFP is working closely with many partners to contribute to ending poverty and hunger, promoting an inclusive society, strengthening partnerships in Iraq and empowering women. Iraq currently ranks 121 out of 155 in the latest Human Development Report's Gender Inequality Index (2016).

In this context, WFP has focused on saving lives and protecting livelihoods in Iraq in an effort to support the people of Iraq to achieve zero hunger. WFP has been present in Iraq since 1991.

**Population:** 37.9 million  
(Government, 2016)

**2016 Human Development Index:**  
121 out of 188

**Stunting:** 17-20% in children <5  
(CFSVA, 2016)

**Malnutrition:** 5-8% in children <5  
(CFSVA, 2016)

## Donors

Top 5 in 2017 (EMOP 200677, in alphabetical order): Canada, Germany, Japan, UN CERF and USA

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