IRAQ Crisis
Situation Report #23, 8 July 2015

Country: IRAQ

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR IRAQI IDPs

previous months.

WFP Response

- Providing food assistance to displaced and conflict-affected people through its Emergency Operation (EMOP), WFP tailors its assistance to meet specific needs, deploying three-day rations, monthly rations or food vouchers.

- As stated in its EMOP, WFP aims to assist 2.2 million people per month. However, due to funding shortfalls and access constraints, WFP has been forced to scale back its assistance. In the coming months, it will work to reach some 1.5 million people per month, throughout all 18 governorates in Iraq.

- As part of regional EMOP 200433 to assist Syrian refugees fleeing conflict, WFP currently provides in-kind food or voucher assistance to approximately 104,000 Syrian refugees residing across nine camps in Iraq.

- By heading Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters (ETC) through a Special Operation, WFP assists both non-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.

Food Assistance

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR IDPs:

Immediate Response Rations (IRRs)

- In collaboration with UNICEF and NGO partners, WFP pre-positions and distributes IRRs through a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), in collaboration with UNICEF and other partners. The focus remains on those displaced from ongoing violence in central Iraqi governorates and those returning to their homes in Tikrit, Salah al-Din governorate.

Situation Update

- Escalating conflict between Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) militants and pro-government forces has resulted in more than 3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) across Iraq. Approximately 4.4 million people in Iraq require food assistance.

- WFP’s remote monitoring tool, mVAM, has found that food consumption rates in Anbar governorate deteriorated further in May. IDPs ate fewer protein-rich foods such as meat, eggs and dairy compared to previous months.
FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR IDPs:
Family Food Parcels (FFPs)

- Families who are temporarily settled within IDP camps and settlements, and have access to cooking facilities, are provided with a one month FFP.
- Because access to job opportunities is more limited to displaced people living in IDP camps than outside, WFP continues to supply displaced people in camps with full rations. During June WFP had sufficient supplies to distribute 39,000 complete rations to families in camps, enough for 216,000 people.
- However, due to severe funding constraints, households living in the host communities or with extended families now receive reduced rations.

Vouchers

- WFP distributes food vouchers to IDPs in Erbil governorate, urban areas in Duhok, and four districts in Sulaymaniya.
- Each person receives one food voucher per month, worth USD 16, or 19,000 Iraqi Dinars (previously USD 26). These can be redeemed at selected local shops, empowering families to select their preferred goods.
- Since 1 June, 441,000 displaced Iraqis received WFP food vouchers, boosting the local economy by USD 7 million.

ASSISTANCE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES:

- WFP and its cooperating partners continued in-kind food and voucher distributions in all Syrian refugee camps across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, injecting almost USD 1.8 million into the local economy in June through its voucher programme.
- WFP and its cooperating partner, the REACH Initiative, completed data collection for the Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment of all camp-residing refugees in mid-June. Tent-to-tent surveys were administered in all nine Syrian refugee camps across the KRI. Results from the assessment will help WFP and UNHCR better understand the relationship between food security and vulnerabilities as part of the joint vulnerability targeting process. WFP plans to start targeted assistance based on vulnerability in August 2015.
- For the third month this year, WFP was unable to deliver food commodities to Al Obaidi camp and distributions of individual food parcels did not take place. UNHCR continued its daily distribution of bread and monthly complementary food assistance of IQD 17,500 (USD 15) per person. In addition, as in May, another IQD 25,000 IQD (USD 20) per refugee was provided given that WFP was unable to distribute food commodities.

Clusters

Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- The Food Security Cluster is closely monitoring the status of recent returnees in the town of Tikrit, Salah al-Din governorate. Upwards of 2,200 families have returned to their homes, nearly three months after the town was liberated from ISIL— but only to find much of the local infrastructure and economy in ruins.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

- The ETC is improving the safety of humanitarian staff working in a complex security environment, by boosting the capacity of emergency telecommunications networks in Iraq. Since 1 July, the ETC has configured handheld radios for UN sister agencies WHO, IOM and UNDP.

Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster is storing 910 cubic metres of humanitarian commodities for five partners (International Red Crescent, International Medical Corps, French Red Cross, NRC and Medicines Sans Frontieres-Switzerland).

Resourcing Update

- The Emergency Operation for IDPs in Iraq requires USD 123.6 million in order to continue operations until December. Unless additional funding is secured urgently, 2.2 million people are at risk of losing WFP food assistance in the coming months.
- WFP’s Syrian refugee response in Iraq requires USD 18 million to continue its operations until December 2015. Unless additional funding is secured, food insecure households residing in Syrian refugee camps are at risk of losing WFP food assistance in the coming months.

Contact

Country Director: Jane Pearce; jane.pearce@wfp.org
Logistics Cluster Coordinator: Tania Regan; tania.regan@wfp.org
ETC Coordinator: John Bursa; iraq.etc@wfp.org

Residents at Bersive 1 IDP Camp, Duhok governorate, share their story

Around three-quarters of Bersive 1’s residents are Yazidi people. Laila comes from this community. She fled her home in Khane, Sinjar district, nearly one year ago. "When ISIL came to Sinjar I told my children we would go to the mountains,” she recalls. “We were afraid, and had no idea of our destiny. I never imagined we’d end up in the camp”.

Laila has three children to support. "The food helps us so much,” says explains. "If there was no WFP food we would struggle, as we often do not have money.”

"We make rice, lentil soup and chickpea soup. And we make dolma and khubbe; it is almost the same as the food I could make at home”. "But nothing compares to home,” Laila sighs. "We want to go home, to our village.” But with violence continuing around her district, it’s unlikely that Laila’s wish will be granted any time soon.

WFP’s emergency food assistance in Iraq is generously supported by Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, UN Central Emergency Response Fund, the UK, USA, and private sector donations. The Special Operation is funded by Canada, Kuwait, Sweden, the UK and private donors.

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