



Kerbala—Isra Kassim / WFP



World Food Programme

## 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])

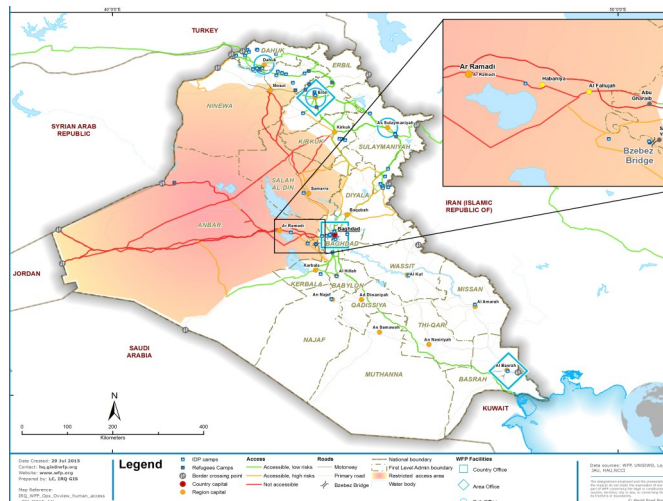
**3.2 million people internally displaced** (IOM)

**251,000 Syrian Refugees in Iraq** (UNHCR)

### WFP Iraq Funding Requirements:

**EMOP 200677:** USD 65.3 million (September - December 2015)

**EMOP 200433.IQ:** USD 13.6 million (September - December 2015)



reportedly blocked or closed.

- Approximately 4.4 million people in Iraq require food assistance.

### WFP Response

- Providing food assistance to displaced and conflict-affected people through its **EMOP 200677**, WFP tailors its assistance to meet specific needs, deploying three-day rations, monthly rations or food vouchers.
- WFP EMOP 200677 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, WFP 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 48,000 Syrian refugees residing in nine camps across Iraq.
- By heading the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters (ETC) through a **Special Operation**, WFP assists both NGO and UN partners with transport, warehouses, communications and internet access. The Logistics Cluster has 60 partners and manages warehouses in Erbil, Duhok and Baghdad. The ETC has 31 partners, and approximately 200 humanitarian staff members using its IT systems.

### Food Assistance

#### EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR IDPs:

##### Immediate Response Rations (IRRs)

- In collaboration with UNICEF and NGO partners, WFP pre-positions and distributes IRRs to transient IDPs through a **Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)**.
- Vulnerable families who have recently arrived in camps, urban areas or are living with host communities, receive portable ready-to-eat food. One IRR provides a family of five with food for three days.
- The RRM is in partnership with ACTED, Norwegian Refugee Council, Danish Refugee Council, Mercy Corps, and Save the Children International. So far in August, WFP has distributed some 11,500 IRRs in hard to reach areas such as Anbar and Salah al-Din governorates; sufficient to assist approximately 62,000 people.

#### FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR IDPs:

##### Family Food Parcels (FFPs)

### Highlights

- WFP requires USD 65.3 million from September until December 2015 to fund its emergency operation (EMOP) for those affected by the Iraq crisis. Unless contributions are received urgently, WFP will be forced to make further cutbacks to food assistance in Iraq.
- Following a comprehensive assessment of the food security and vulnerability status of Syrian refugees living in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, WFP has focused its resources on the most vulnerable in August.

### Situation Update

- Escalating conflict between Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) militants and pro-government forces has resulted in more than 3.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) across Iraq.
- Humanitarian access remains challenging, both for humanitarian actors to reach people who are affected by the current crisis and for people to safely access humanitarian assistance and services. Access routes for thousands of displaced people in Anbar are limited and many exit routes from Ramadi and Fallujah are

- 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, meeting 80 percent of their daily caloric needs. So far in August, WFP has assisted approximately 160,000 people living in camps.
- However, due to severe funding constraints, approximately 1.1 million people living in host communities or with extended families received reduced rations in July, covering approximately 25 percent of July and August caloric requirements.

Vouchers

- WFP distributes food vouchers to IDPs in Erbil governorate, urban areas in Duhok, and four districts in Sulaymaniyah.
- Each person receives one food voucher per month, worth USD 16, or 19,000 Iraqi Dinars (IQD). These can be redeemed at selected local shops, empowering families to select their preferred goods.
- Due to funding constraints, WFP made adjustments to its voucher distribution strategy in August. Families with between one to five members will receive one voucher each. Families with between six to nine members will receive five vouchers, whilst those with ten or more members will receive eight vouchers
- Some 440,000 IDPs will receive assistance in the form of vouchers during August, boosting the local economy by USD 7 million.

**ASSISTANCE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES:**

- Guided by a Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment of all camp-residing refugees, WFP began channelling limited resources to those most in need of food assistance during August.
- Accordingly, WFP adopted a tiered approach whereby those considered food insecure receive USD 19 (22,300 IQD) each month. Refugees believed to marginally food insecure receive USD 10 (11,700 IQD) each month. Food secure refugees no longer receive WFP food assistance, representing a 47 percent reduction from WFP’s previous plan.
- WFP’s Syrian refugee response in Iraq has injected almost USD 55 million into the local economy to date through the voucher programme.

## Clusters

**Food Security Cluster (FSC)**

- Co-leading the Food Security Cluster alongside FAO, WFP coordinates the food assistance response across Iraq.
- On 26 August, the Food Security Cluster participated in an inter-cluster mission to Dibagah, Erbil governorate, in order to assess the needs of 4,000 IDPs residing in emergency shelter and local public buildings. Many have recently fled Makhmour, Ninewa governorate, due to an upsurge in violence.

**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. On 18 August, the ETC installed a new telecommunications mast in Arbat IDP camp, Sulaymaniyah governorate, strengthening humanitarian telecommunications in the area.

**Logistics Cluster**

- The Logistics Cluster is currently storing 49 mt of humanitarian commodities in its Duhok warehouse for three partners (French Red Cross, Norwegian Refugee Council and Médecins Sans Frontieres - Switzerland).

## Resourcing Update

- The Emergency Operation for IDPs in Iraq requires USD 65.3 million in order to continue its 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 13.6 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 food assistance, provided by WFP, in the coming months.

## Contact

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**“Without these vouchers, only God will help us.”**

“I depend on the vouchers to buy food,” says 64 year-old Hazar, from Sinjar, as she cuddles Juliana, one of her many granddaughters.

Although she has worked on farms her entire life, diabetes and high blood pressure mean that labouring in the blistering heat is no longer an option. Since escaping ISIL’s onslaught in 2014, WFP has provided her with monthly food vouchers, which Hazar redeems in the nearby town of Zakho. In addition to rice, tea and “all the normal things,” this month she had bought a packet of biscuits as a special treat.

Hazar describes how she would like to start a small garden and teach her grandchildren how to grow their own vegetables. But the high price of plants and tools on the market means that simply is not possible. As Hazar notes, “Without these vouchers, only God will help us.”

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