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)

Inkind support, and three-day Immediate Response Rations (IRRs). However, due to pipeline issues and continued access constraints, WFP has reviewed its levels of assistance and now reaches an average of 1.5 million people per cycle.

• Following assessments and the start of targeted assistance in August, WFP aims to assist 60,000 Syrian refugees residing in nine camps across Iraq each month with vouchers, as part of the regional EMOP 200433 to assist those displaced by the Syria conflict.

• WFP leads three inter-agency Clusters to coordinate humanitarian action on the ground. Co-led with FAO, the Food Security Cluster works with local partners at the governorate and national level to coordinate the food security response to the crisis in Iraq. 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: 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 in the field.

FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR IDPs:
Family Food Parcels (FFPs)
• WFP is targeting FFPs to 875,000 people in December, as part of the two-month distribution cycle which aims to reach 1.67 million people. To continue reaching the most vulnerable, WFP is prioritising IDPs living in camps in central conflict-affected governorates with full rations, while all IDPs elsewhere receive reduced rations. Supporting 40 percent of caloric requirements, the commodities are prioritised to avoid duplication with rations provided by the Public Distribution System and include rice, pulses, wheat flour and vegetable oil.

Vouchers
• In December, WFP is targeting 85,000 people in the northern governorates of Erbil, Duhok and Sulaymaniyyah with vouchers, following distributions to 367,000 people in November. Across the cycle, vouchers will inject over USD 3 million into the local economy. To align with reductions to in-kind assistance, voucher distributions are calibrated by family size, and the value has been reduced twice from its original value of USD 26: in March, to USD 16, and again in August to USD 10. Vouchers are redeemable at 190 local shops, allowing beneficiaries to choose their preferred commodities.

Situation Update
WFP Response
• Through EMOP 200677, WFP aims to assist 2.2 million displaced and conflict-affected people in Iraq per month through three modalities: Family Food Parcels (FFPs);
EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR IDPs: Immediate Response Rations (IRRs)

- In collaboration with UNICEF, UNFPA and NGO partners, WFP provides IRRs to transient IDPs through a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). IRRs consist of portable ready-to-eat rations which can feed a family of five for three days.

- As part of its first line response, WFP continues to assist recent returnees and newly displaced families with IRRs. In December so far, WFP and partners have distributed over 2,400 IRRs - enough to assist 12,000 people - in Anbar, Diyala, Duhok, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates.

FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES:

- WFP is channeling its limited resources towards providing monthly vouchers to 60,000 Syrian refugees in camps who are the most vulnerable to food insecurity. Food insecure refugees receive USD 19 each month and those who are marginally food insecure receive USD 10 each month. Food secure refugees no longer receive WFP food assistance as they are able to access food sources with their own means.

- Data collection is complete for a food security and vulnerability assessment of non-camp refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Data analysis is ongoing, the results of which will inform WFP’s support to food insecure Syrian refugees who live in the community in 2016, subject to availability of funding.

Clusters

- The 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which seeks to recalibrate the UN’s response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Iraq, was launched globally on 07 December. All three WFP-led Clusters submitted inputs, and are appealing for 2016 funds under the plan.

Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- The FSC is planning a series of information management trainings in Erbil and Baghdad, to improve inter-agency reporting and support local partners’ ability to evaluate the response so far, identify gaps, and inform decision-making moving forward.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

- The ETC is conducting a technical training course to build the capacity of local ICT staff in the area of digital radio communication technology. Local staff from a range of UN agencies and NGOs are participating in the five-day training, which is taking place in Erbil.

Logistics Cluster

- Trucks of non-food items (NFIs) are steadily arriving at Logistics Cluster warehouses in Erbil and Baghdad. Around 16 percent of the total 67,500 m³ has arrived so far; trucks will continue arriving into the New Year. The shipment, contributed by USAID/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), is worth USD 75 million. NFIs will be allocated to organisations on the ground to support the UN’s humanitarian response, including winterisation during the cold period.

Resourcing Update

- A total of USD 31.8 million is required until May 2016 under Budget Revision 6 of EMOP 200677 IDP operation. The operation requires sustained support throughout 2016 to continue assisting those in need and build contingency stocks of food, in order to enable a rapid response to mass displacement or return.

- WFP’s Syrian refugee response in Iraq has a project shortfall of USD 12.5 million for the upcoming three months (December 2015 – February 2016). A total of USD 25.1 million is required until May 2016 under Budget Revision 16 of EMOP 200433. If the necessary funding is not received for next year, WFP will be forced to make cutbacks in assistance to food-insecure Syrian refugees across the country.

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“This food assistance helped us to survive”

Ibrahim Mohammed Al-Ali, a 32-year-old-father, lives in Basirma camp on the outskirts of Erbil city. He was forced to leave his family and house in Tel Tamer, Al-Hasakah, Syria, making the journey to Erbil on his own in 2012. After a hard and painful journey facilitated by smugglers, Ibrahim first arrived to Domiz camp, also in the northern Kurdish region of Iraq. Shortly thereafter his family were able to flee the conflict as well, and reunited with Ibrahim in Basirma camp.

“I miss Syria my country. I miss Tel Tamer… We lived in peace and harmony,” Ibrahim said.

Ibrahim received WFP food assistance through vouchers both in Domiz and Basirma camps. “This food assistance helped us to survive and with the vouchers, we can choose the food that we need,” he added.

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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