

WFP Iraq Situation Report #63

May 2019



In Numbers

1.67 million people displaced (IOM)

4.27 million returnees (IOM)

319,035 Iraqis assisted by WFP

252,983 Syrian refugees in Iraq (UNHCR)

26,943 Syrians assisted by WFP

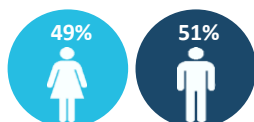
Highlights

- In May, WFP delivered food assistance to over 345,978 people in 10 governorates, reaching 317,763 IDPs, 26,943 Syrian refugees and 1,272 Iraqi returnees and people from vulnerable communities.
- The Government of Iraq is increasing its collaboration to better meet the food needs of IDPs, both in camps and outside. The objective is for WFP and the ministries to complement each other's food baskets, whereby if distribution plans are shared, WFP can top up government assistance with food or cash to ensure the beneficiaries receive the nutrition they need. In 2019, over 40 percent of WFP's assistance to IDPs has been complementary to government assistance.

People assisted

345,978

May 2019



- Several crop fires have been reported throughout the country in May, mainly in Diyala, Erbil, Kirkuk, Salah al-Din and Ninewa. The cause is yet to be determined, with some reports citing ritual crop burning by farmers to facilitate new crop growth and others indicating arson by certain groups. There has been no impact on WFP operations, but the food security and overall security situation continue to be closely monitored.
- Due to floods and the ongoing Qayarah Bridge closure, WFP commodities could not reach nine large camps in Ninewa. Distributions for these camps were delayed to May and June.
- Regular coordination meetings are conducted between WFP, the Public Distribution System (PDS), the Ministry of Migration and Displacement (MoMD), and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) to discuss distribution plans. As a result of the increased coordination with the Government and new donor contributions, WFP will return to a 4-week distribution cycle from 1 July, after being forced to move to a 6-week cycle since March due to lack of resources.
- WFP needs an additional USD 71.8 million to ensure that operations continue without interruption through November. WFP specifically calls for donors to support to IDPs (Strategic Objective 1) and resilience activities (Strategic Objective 3).

Global Humanitarian Funding to Iraq in 2019	Overall: USD 701.2 m
	WFP share: USD 33.9 m

WFP Net Funding Requirements	
Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP) (June 2019 – November 2019)	USD 71.8 m

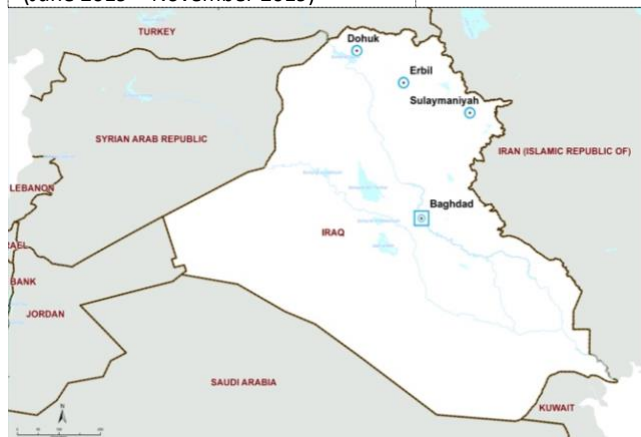


Photo: The first distributions under the trial modernisation of the PDS took place in Baghdad on 28 May.

WFP/Sharon Rapose Situation Update

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WFP Response



- All bridges affected due to heavy rains in Ninewa governorate have reopened except Qayarah Bridge, which is the main access point for delivering food assistance to the Ninewa IDP camps. Food assistance for May was delivered using an alternative route (Erbil – Kirkuk – Tikrit – Samara – Sharqat – Qayarah). Qayarah Bridge was expected to open in early June for all types of vehicles, including heavy trucks.
- Delivery during May was completed on the second day of the Eid Holiday.

Assessments

- The IDP targeting exercise with MoMD has concluded, with the final results expected shortly. Initial results highlight that around 14 percent of IDPs have some form of income, indicating that they may be more food secure than those who do not.
- Following the assessment mission on the feasibility of transitioning from e-vouchers to Mobile Money Transfers (MMT) and the recommendation to switch to MMT in all 13 camps assessed (for approximately 50,000 IDPs and 33,500 refugees), planning for the switch from July 2019 has now commenced. An implementation team has been set up to ensure the transition goes smoothly. Coordination meetings were arranged with partners and financial service providers (FSPs). The respective governors, the Cash Working Group and clusters were also informed.



Food and Nutrition Assistance

- Communication with Communities activities have been focused around following major operational changes: the adjusted entitlement in both cash-based transfer (CBT) value for IDPs from IQD 20,000 (USD 17.1) to IQD 17,000 (USD 14.5) and in-kind in those locations where MoMD is also distributing food assistance, in addition to re-adjustment in the number of refugee and transition from e-vouchers to MMT. CwC will also focus on the resumption of the usual 4-week distribution cycle from the 6-week cycle.
- On 28 May, the Minister of Trade launched in Baghdad the first day of distributions under a trial of a newly digitised Public Distribution System. Citizens collected their food rations with a PDS smartcard developed by WFP and accessed by fingerprint.
- Food-Assistance-for-Training (FFT) / EMPACT (formerly Tech for Food) recently relaunched with a new cooperating partner (CP) in Salah al-Din, Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I). Classes are continuing in basic IT and English. Outreach has begun for the classes in Mosul. EMPACT provides digital skills

through a tailored, focused vocational training programme, and partners with leading tech firms to connect trainees with online work opportunities. Participants in the programme learn skills from web navigation and annotating images, to dedicated software training in programs such as Microsoft Office and Adobe Photoshop. EMPACT helps young refugees and their communities hosting them to build sustainable livelihoods.

- Under the resilience programme, Food-Assistance-for-Assets (FFA) projects continued to progress, with 210 people participating in kitchen garden cultivation and training in Ninewa. A drip irrigation system was installed, bringing water to the gardens of 1,050 people.

Clusters and Common Services



Food Security Cluster

- The Food Security Cluster (FSC), NGO People in Need and target figures were shared with OCHA for Humanitarian Response Plan activities monitoring at the district level.
- The FSC paid a visit with WFP to the MoMD office in Erbil to discuss the importance of reporting MoMD distributions in the camps on the ActivityInfo database, and strengthen coordination to ensure the timely delivery of assistance to beneficiaries.
- The FSC and WFP's Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping team held a meeting with the REACH initiative to update the food security indicators as part of the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) planning.



Logistics Cluster

- Since the Logistics Cluster in Iraq stopped operating in March, one staff member is continuing to manage cross-border operations with Syria, which are currently at a low level, until 30 June 2019. The Logistics Unit has now taken the lead of the Logistics Sector and any required follow-up items.

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For further information, visit the WFP Iraq page: wfp.org/countries/iraq

Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (TICSP), 01 January 2018 - 31 December 2019)*

	TICSP Requirements in 2019 (in USD)	Allocated Contributions in 2019 (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June 2019 – November 2019)	People Assisted (March 2019)	Female	Male
TICSP TOTAL (Jan 2018 – Dec 2019)	162.1 m	33.9 m	71.8 m	345,978	169,530	176,448

*The Budget Revision – BR 04 – was approved in May.