



Baghdad—WFP/Elle Swingewood



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])

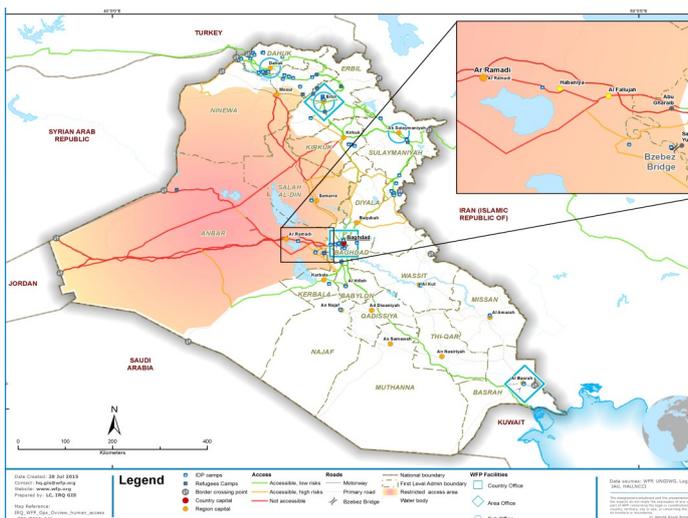
**3.2 million people internally displaced** (IOM)

**249,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq** (UNHCR)

**WFP Iraq Funding Requirements:**

**EMOP 200677 for conflict-affected Iraqis:**  
USD 34 million (October - December 2015)

**EMOP 200433.IQ for Syrian refugees:**  
USD 8.5 million (October - December 2015)



### Highlights

- To continue assisting Iraqis affected by the current crisis, WFP requires USD 34 million to fund operations until December 2015, and an anticipated USD 70 million to support operations until March 2016. A further USD 8.5 million is needed for the Syrian refugee response in Iraq until December 2015, and a predicted USD 12.4 million up to March 2016. To extend assistance for as long as possible amid funding shortfalls, WFP has adopted tiered distributions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and Syrian refugees, adjusted by location and assessed vulnerability to food insecurity.
- According to WFP remote monitoring, the percentage of people consuming an inadequate diet, with poor or borderline food consumption score (FCS), has increased. At least one in five households in Anbar governorate are food insecure based on FCS. In September, wheat prices were 30-50 percent higher in northern conflict-affected governorates compared to Baghdad.

### Situation Update

- Protracted and escalating conflict between extremist militants and pro-government forces has left 3.2 million IDPs across Iraq. According to WFP and FAO joint

assessments, 4.4 million people demonstrate some form of food insecurity.

- The Grain Board of Iraq estimates that wheat procurement from local farmers will fall short in the current season by 1 million mt of wheat, requiring imports to meet requirements of the national Public Distribution System (PDS), a government-run social safety net. Iraq's agricultural production continues to be stymied by conflict as key areas of Iraq's cereal belt remain under control of armed groups.

### WFP Response

- Through **EMOP 200677**, WFP aims to assist 2.2 million displaced and conflict-affected people in Iraq per month through three modalities: monthly Family Food Parcels (FFPs); vouchers; and three-day Immediate Response Rations (IRRs). However, due to significant funding shortfalls and continued access constraints, WFP has been forced to scale back assistance and now works to reach 1.5 million people per month in all 18 governorates.
- As part of the regional **EMOP 200433** to assist those displaced by the Syria conflict, WFP plans to provide monthly assistance to up to 52,000 Syrian refugees by December 2015 as compared to the earlier plan to reach up to 130,000 refugees. Following recent assessments and the start of targeted assistance in August, WFP now assists over 48,000 Syrian refugees residing in nine camps across Iraq on a monthly basis.
- By heading the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications Clusters through a **Special Operation**, WFP assists UN and NGO partners to ensure an efficient and effective logistics and communications response to humanitarian emergencies. 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 on the ground. The Food Security Cluster, co-led by WFP and FAO, coordinates the food security response to the crisis in Iraq.

#### FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR IDPs:

##### Family Food Parcels (FFPs)

- WFP aims to distribute FFPs to 1.5 million IDPs across all 18 governorates each month.
- To extend assistance despite funding shortfalls, WFP is prioritising IDPs living in camps in central conflict-affected governorates. Approximately 370,000 camp-based IDPs in Anbar, Baghdad and Salah al-Din continue to receive full rations, while all IDPs living in and out of camps elsewhere received reduced rations in September, such as rice, pulses and vegetable oil. The commodities, prioritised to avoid duplication with commodities provided by the PDS, support around 40 percent of the original caloric requirements. The remaining needs are being supported through PDS distributions and other

coping mechanisms.

- In cooperation with the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Ministry of Trade, WFP has suspended the distribution of wheat flour in Duhok governorate in September and October due to PDS distributions of local wheat flour. To prevent the duplication of assistance and preserve limited resources, WFP wheat flour stock previously intended for distribution in Duhok has now been allocated to other high-priority governorates. WFP anticipates the same planning agreement across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) by the end of the year as IDP registration is completed.

#### Vouchers

- WFP distributes food vouchers worth USD 10, to IDPs in Erbil governorate, urban areas in Duhok, and four districts in Sulaymaniyah. The voucher value (previously USD 26) has been reduced significantly since March 2015. The initial reduction decreased its value to USD 16, which was followed by a further cutback to USD 10 in August. The vouchers are redeemable at 190 local shops.
- In September and October, WFP will assist 450,000 IDPs with vouchers covering the two-month period, boosting the local economy by USD 4 million.
- Funding shortfalls have pushed WFP to impose tighter entitlement ceilings. Families of six to nine members will receive five vouchers, while those with ten or more members will receive eight vouchers. Families of one to five members will receive one voucher per person.

#### 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 food 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. So far in October, over 23,000 people have been reached with IRRs in Erbil, Diyala, Baghdad and Sulaymaniyah.

#### ASSISTANCE FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES:

- Guided by a Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment of all camp-based refugees, WFP is now channeling its limited resources towards providing monthly assistance to 52,000 Syrian refugees who are vulnerable or extremely vulnerable to food insecurity.
- WFP has adopted a tiered approach whereby Syrian refugees residing in camps considered food-insecure

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, representing a 47 percent reduction in the total number of Syrian refugees receiving WFP assistance.

- With the construction of partner shops in Gawilan and Arbat camps completed, Syrian refugees receiving WFP assistance in all nine camps have now fully transitioned from in-kind assistance to vouchers.

## Clusters

- All Clusters are preparing for the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The HRP, which will be launched in late November, seeks to recalibrate the UN's response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Iraq.

#### Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- FSC is holding a number of partner consultations across the country with new NGO focal points from priority and hard-to-reach areas to coordinate and define the strategic objectives of the food security response on a governorate level.

#### Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

- Joint missions are underway with UNAMI in Erbil to enhance radio coverage and boost the capacity of emergency telecommunications networks in Iraq by installing agency-specific radio channels.

#### Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster is coordinating with USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance to facilitate an incoming shipment of non-food items to support logistics, cargo tracking and warehousing services for the UN's humanitarian response.

## Resourcing Update

- Unless USD 34 million is urgently secured, up to 2.2 million people are at risk of losing WFP food assistance in December.
- WFP's Syrian refugee response in Iraq requires USD 8.5 million to continue its operations until December. If the necessary funding is not received, WFP will be forced to make cutbacks in assistance to food-insecure Syrian refugees across the country.

## Contact

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### "I appreciate this kind effort from WFP"

Fajr is from Fallujah, a city in the war-stricken Anbar governorate. Over a year ago, Fajr and her mother fled their home to escape the violence, but are now struggling to get by in Baghdad. Here in the capital, they've met many other families who left their homes in similar situations, having fled conflicts in Salah al-Din, Diyala and Anbar to name a few.

Fajr loves to eat sweets, like the traditional Iraqi *zlabiya* – rings of fried batter, doused in syrup. However, her mother cannot often afford to buy her these treats. In spite of this, and thanks to WFP assistance, she says, "I can still bake bread like I used to do back home" using her monthly flour ration. Fajr hopes to one day return to their house in Fallujah and watch her mother bake bread again in their own kitchen. Until then, assistance from WFP, its donors and implementing partners, is helping Fajr and her mother get by in an unfamiliar place, far from home.

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.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY THE IRAQ CRISIS [wfp.org/countries/iraq](http://wfp.org/countries/iraq)

