



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



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Iraq

Humanitarian Response Plan 2018



to assist

116 100 people



FAO requires

USD 10.2 million



period

January – December 2018

To address food intake gaps families often adopt negative coping mechanisms, depleting savings and generating debts. FAO is committed to restoring livestock production – one of the pillars of Iraq's agriculture sector – to improve food security and self-reliance.

With almost all areas controlled by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) retaken by the Government of Iraq by the end of 2017, focus in 2018 will shift from humanitarian operations to recovery and resilience. However, significant humanitarian needs remain, as conflict has severely impacted the agriculture sector and left 2 million people food insecure, including internally displaced people, host communities, returnees, residents and refugees.

Objectives

FAO is working with partners in the Food Security Cluster to:

- Provide emergency food and agricultural assets to highly vulnerable families as soon as they are accessible.
- Help highly vulnerable families in priority locations secure sufficient food and restore agricultural livelihoods.
- Help strengthen food-related social protection mechanisms and key agricultural production systems.

Activities



Provide immediate and mid-term support to livestock-based livelihoods

animal restocking | animal feed | vaccinations and treatment | information and training on livestock best practices | technical and marketing support | job creation



Plant pest outbreak control

insect collection | training on surveillance, detection, collection and disposal of pests | support to plant protection authorities and researchers | insecticide application



Strengthen food security coordination

cluster coordination | situation and response framework monitoring and analysis | assessments | contingency planning for emergency preparedness | capacity building and technical assistance

Situation analysis



2 million people
food insecure



77% of food-insecure people
are women, children or elderly

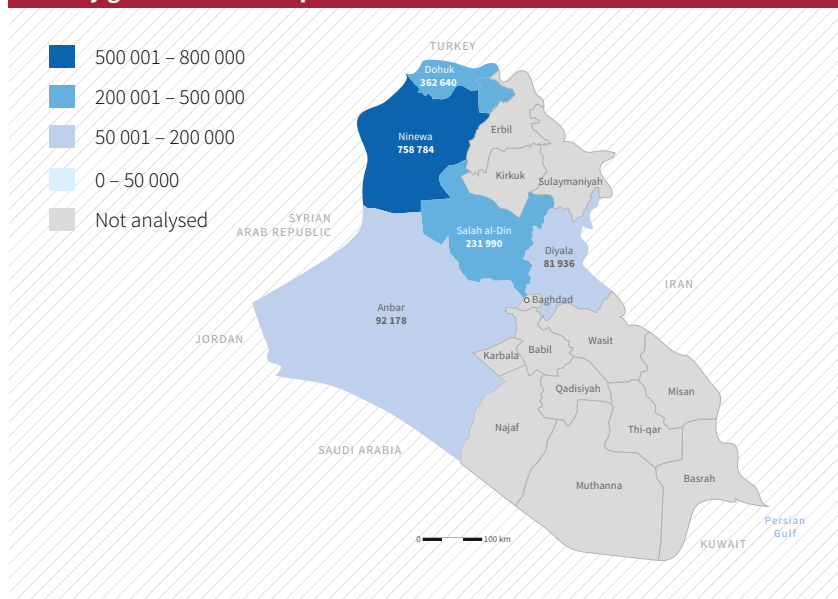


2.47 million IDPs



3.35 million returnees

IDPs by governorate of displacement



Source: International Organization for Migration, January 2018

Impact on food security

Although the Government of Iraq declared victory over ISIL in December 2017, the impact of more than three years of conflict on agricultural livelihoods and food security remains severe.

In 2018, 2 million people are expected to need food security assistance – 60 percent are located in Anbar, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah al-Din governorates. IDPs are among the most vulnerable. In some governorates, 43 percent of displaced women-headed households are food insecure. To meet household food needs, vulnerable households frequently adopt negative and unsustainable coping mechanisms such as reducing meal size and frequency.

During the conflict, on average three-quarters of cattle, sheep, goats and buffalo were lost through looting, forced sale or death – in some places the loss was 95 percent. Agricultural tools and machinery were looted, damaged or destroyed and land was contaminated with unexploded ordnance. Farmers and herders lack the capital to buy back assets.

Overall, agricultural production capacity has reduced by an estimated 40 percent compared with pre-ISIL levels. Prior to ISIL taking control of central and northwestern Iraq in 2014, crop production including wheat, barley, maize, fruits and vegetables in Ninewa and Salah al-Din provided nearly 70 percent of household income. Around 70 to 80 percent of maize, wheat and barley growing areas were damaged or destroyed in Salah al-Din. In Ninewa, 32 percent of land dedicated to wheat cultivation was badly damaged and 68 percent was lost. Only about 20 percent of farmers are thought to have access to irrigation compared with 65 percent prior to the crisis.

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