

Iraq

I. Objectives of WFP assistance

More than a year after the war and the end of sanctions, all Iraqis continue to depend on the public food distribution system (PDS) and little social protection is available for the most vulnerable. However, the PDS is not sustainable in the long run and will need to be replaced by a variety of national measures to provide safety nets to those in critical need.

Education and health services sectors are of concern, having been affected by war, sanctions and the breakdown of law and order that followed the last conflict. Children and women, in particular pregnant and lactating women, as well as the chronically sick, are most affected.

The emergency operation (EMOP) 10360.0 supports these vulnerable groups by providing targeted food aid in primary schools and at health facilities in the most vulnerable districts. This will be complemented by training activities and appropriate capacity building.

Due to the current instability which does not allow the presence of WFP international staff in Iraq, this EMOP is designed to allow implementation by experienced WFP national staff in Iraq together with line ministries and institutions combined with strong support from out-posted WFP international staff. A possibility remains for a phased return within an improved security environment.

Resources to Raise in 2005						
Project type	(tonnes)					Estimated Value (US\$ mill)
	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Other	Total	
Single Country EMOP	7,338	7,650	-	15,399	30,387	27.3
Grand Total	7,338	7,650	-	15,399	30,387	27.3

II. WFP-assisted projects and operations

(a) Development projects and activities

None

(b) Emergency operations

Iraq EMOP 10360.0: "Assistance to Primary School Children and Vulnerable Groups"

Duration: 12 months, through August 2005

Total project commitment: 67,078 tonnes

The project aims to build alternative safety net mechanisms to the PDS, to help the most vulnerable, revitalize government programmes and build institutional capacity and national awareness. Food aid will be complemented with capacity building in food security and vulnerability analysis. The project specifically addresses the priorities of the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation and is a response to line ministry requests with regard to support to education and health care systems. In particular, the project intends to increase enrolment and attendance of children in primary schools; increase attendance of malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women at local health care facilities, and improve their nutritional status; secure attendance of tuberculosis patients at local health care facilities; improve the knowledge and daily practices of mothers and caretakers of young children on appropriate feeding practices; and improve capacities for monitoring and analyzing food security. The Ministry of Health will be WFP's implementing partner.

Expected Outputs in 2005		
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The following initial results are expected, if the project/activity is fully resourced in 2005:

Total number of beneficiaries of WFP food in 2005	Female	Male	Total
	900,100	900,100	1,800,200
Number of pregnant and lactating women and children participating in MCH/Supplementary feeding	Women	Children	Total
	350,250	223,200	573,450
Number of children given school meals	Girls	Boys	Total
	430,600	562,100	992,700
Number of school children given take-home rations of whom: receiving both take-home rations and school meals	99,700		99,700
	99,700		99,700

(c) Protracted relief and recovery operations

None

(d) Special operations

None