In Iraq, years of instability have led to the collapse of national systems, leaving already vulnerable populations at further risk of increased food insecurity. As a result, hundreds of thousands depend on food aid. With nearly 30 percent of Iraqis living in rural areas, restoring agricultural livelihoods is fundamental to the humanitarian response. Every USD 1 spent on supporting farmers with a wheat production package yields ten-times its value in crops.

**What humanitarian investment in agriculture can achieve**

**USD 80**

With a vegetable seed package, a household can produce up to 16 tonnes of vegetables ready for consumption in 12–16 weeks, worth USD 3 000 on the local market.  

Enable a family to produce nutrient-rich vegetables for a year and generate income

**USD 125**

With cash-for-work interventions during the lean season, each beneficiary receives a cash transfer valued at USD 100 to contribute to rehabilitate vital community agricultural infrastructure.  

Support a family during the lean season, while improving food production for the wider community

**USD 130**

With a crop production package, a household can cultivate 1 ha of land and produce 3.2 tonnes of wheat, worth USD 1 344 on the local market.  

Support a family of 5 with staple food for a year and generate income
Urgency of humanitarian agricultural assistance

In Iraq, years of conflict and instability have damaged crops and destroyed vital agricultural infrastructure. In a country where nearly one-third of the population is rural and relies on agriculture for their food and income, this has eroded the livelihoods of vulnerable farming families who are unable to feed themselves and their communities.

Moreover, the lack of adequate public services, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and fluctuations in oil revenues have stunted Iraq’s agricultural rehabilitation efforts, exacerbating the vulnerabilities of smallholder farmers and increasing the levels of food insecurity.

Providing smallholder farmers with time-critical production inputs and repairing community agricultural infrastructure will restore their livelihoods and improve their food security, thus contributing to their self-reliance.

For example, rehabilitating one irrigation structure through cash for work employs up to 1 250 workers per site, improving water access and agricultural production on 21 000 ha of land. This enables each household to receive lifesaving cash transfers, while repairing small infrastructure to increase food production for their communities.

Drivers of food insecurity

- Insecurity
- Population displacement
- Inadequate access to basic services
- COVID-19
- Climate shocks

Key facts

- Country population: 40.2 million
- 730 000 people in need of food security assistance
- 1.2 million internally displaced people
- USD 9 out of 100 in food security assistance went to support rural livelihoods (2016–2020)
Coordination

As co-leads of the Food Security Cluster in Iraq, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Food Programme work closely with 19 local and international partners, in collaboration with government counterparts, to ensure a needs-based, coordinated and effective response.

FAO priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priorities</th>
<th>Type of assistance provided/contents of assistance package</th>
<th>Cost per beneficiary (USD)</th>
<th>Number of beneficiaries (people)*</th>
<th>Total cost (USD)</th>
<th>Calendar of funding deadlines and implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restore agricultural livelihoods and increase food production</td>
<td>Household crop production package: 150 kg of wheat seed and 50 kg of diammonium phosphate fertilizer</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>17 500</td>
<td>2 275 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Household vegetable seed package (cucumber, tomato and eggplant)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>17 500</td>
<td>1 400 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re rehabilitate community agricultural infrastructure and enable the most vulnerable households to meet their basic needs</td>
<td>Cash for work (USD 100/participant) to rehabilitate/construct agricultural infrastructure</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>5 000</td>
<td>625 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cash+ (USD 75/participant plus agricultural production package and training)</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>40 000</td>
<td>4 600 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Each beneficiary is a representative for their household.

Funding required year round

Month by which funding is required for the implementation of priorities

Planned implementation timeframe for priority activities


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