

# **National Strategic Review of Food Security and Nutrition in Iraq Towards Zero Hunger and Meeting SDG 2 Targets**

## **Presentation of Final Results**

**WFP IRAQ - ICARDA Final Workshop Meeting  
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# Factors Driving Food and Nutrition Insecurity in Iraq

## A Key Facts

### Poverty:

- 22.5% Iraqis live below the national poverty line (IRD 105000 – USD84/month). In ISI-affected Governorates: Poverty rate is above 40%
- CFSVA(2016): Other 30% of the population is vulnerable to food insecurity

### Low rural productivity and incomes:

- AgGDP accounts only about 6%/ Provides 20% employment
- Around 30% of population are living in rural areas (50% of the poor living in rural areas)
- Poor agriculture yield (Cereals: 2T/ha): Lack of infrastructure; decreasing water supplies; increasing land degradation and fragmentation; poor marketing channels, etc.
- Limited opportunities for off-farm employment (lack of processing, transport and storage activities)
- Widespread Government intervention: (private sector uncompetitive + subsidies – wheat sector)

### Gender inequality and gender inequity:

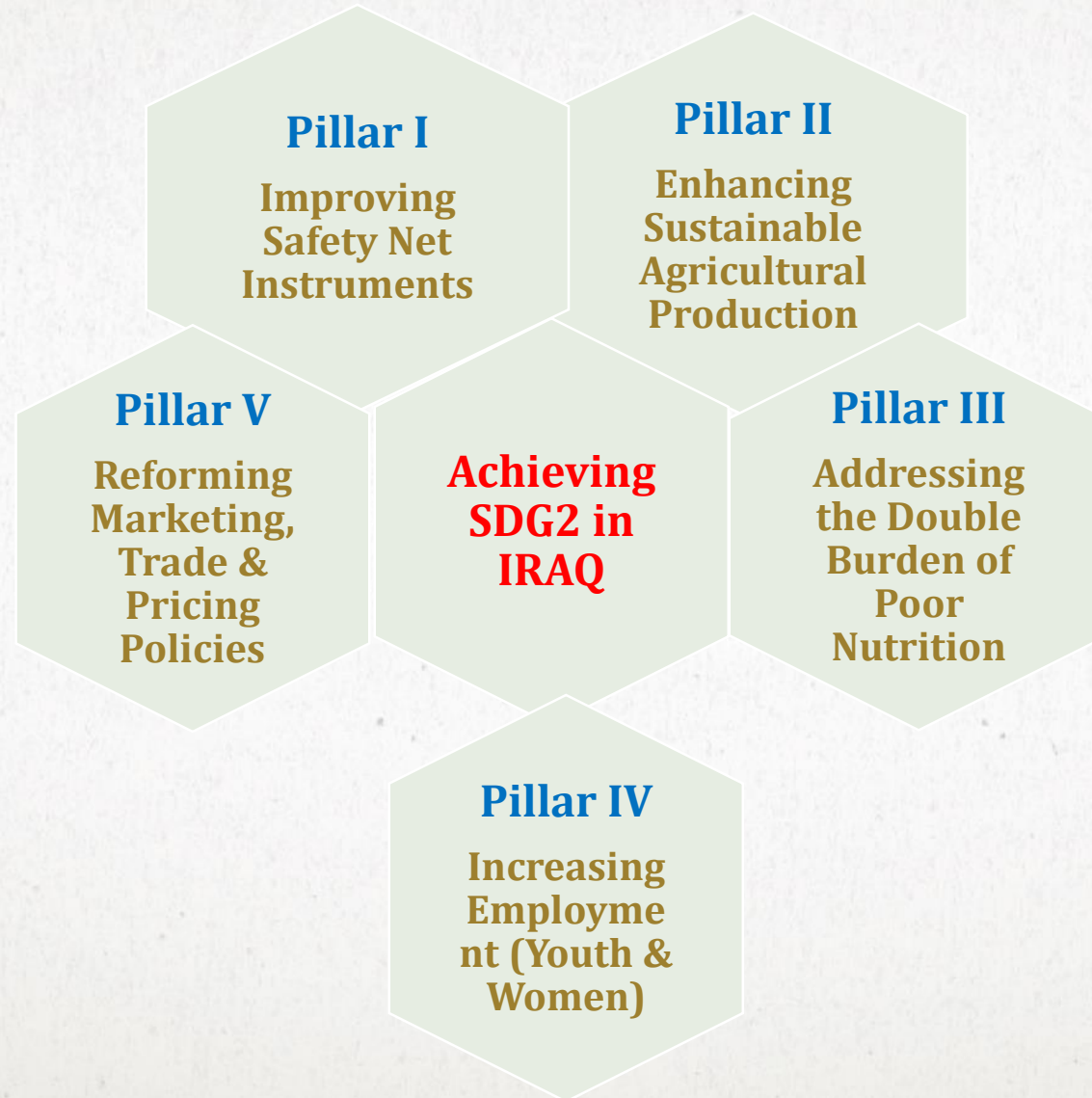
- Low literacy rates for women / Lack of empowerment (Large family sizes)
- High economic dependency rates (1 working person is supporting 6 people)

### High unemployment rates:

- High unemployment rates (13% at the national level & 23% among youth)
- Inefficient cash transfer programs for the poor (43% of beneficiaries are not poor) + Disparities in income distribution
- Lack of livelihoods and chronic poverty among IDP's



# KEY ACTION AREAS FOR THE ACHIEVING SDG2



# PILLAR I: Improving Safety Net Instruments – The PDS System

## Proposed Interventions

### Options For Reforming PDS

- ⦿ OPTION I: Move from universal in-kind PDS to universal Coupon (ALL)
- ⦿ OPTION II: Move from universal in-kind to targeted Coupon (ALL)
- ⦿ OPTION III: The PDS delivery is changed from universal in-kind to universal cash (ALL)
- ⦿ OPTION IV: Move from universal in-kind to universal targeted cash (ALL)

**Note: For geographically Targeted: Possibilities to select to optimal combination between In-Kind, Coupon and Cash.**

### Options For Reforming PDS - **Perfect Targeted” (ONLY POOR – 22.5%)**

- ⦿ OPTION I: The poverty rate will decrease progressively in the coming 5 years: 22.5%; 20%; 17.5%; 15%; 12.5% for 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively
- ⦿ OPTION II: The poverty rate (22.5%) and the budget allocated to the PDS will remain the same for the coming 5 years(2018-2022)
- ⦿ OPTION III: Optimal PDS ration cost and all the poor population (22.5%) covered by the PDS budget

# PILLAR II – Enhancing Sustainable Agricultural Production

## Proposed Interventions

1. Inputs provision.
2. Better integrating farmers to value chains and markets.
3. Enhanced institutional capacities.
4. Land and irrigation (including drainage) development.
5. Protecting soil fertility.
6. Rationalize local production with trade policy.



# **PILLAR III. Addressing the Double Burden of Poor Nutrition**

## **Proposed Interventions**

### **Intervention 1 - At School Level**

- (Pilot) integrated school feeding programmes.
- Refurbishment of targeted primary school buildings, to be equipped with dining halls; school gardens; proper, gender-sensitive sanitation facilities and access to potable water.
- Introduction of Nutrition Education, Food Pyramid Guide Approach and School Gardening topics adapted to age dynamics.

### **Intervention 2 - At Community Level**

- Construction and set up of equipped kitchen facilities run by targeted trained in schools catering management.
- Strengthening local farmers' production and establishing local supply chains for commodity procurement of school meal services.

# PILLAR III. Addressing the Double Burden of Poor Nutrition

## Proposed Interventions

**Intervention 3 - At Ministry Level** (both Ministry of Education and Ministry of Public Health in cooperation with WFP):

- Launch of country awareness campaign involving national media on how good food improves health and school attainment.
- M&E: set up and monitor the impact of the school feeding plan to ensure that progress is being made.

**Intervention 4 - At Policy Level**

- Integration of the nutrition education component in the national curriculum.
- Launch of School Canteen Guidelines including requirements on healthy, age-tailored menu, and quality standards, such as staff health and hygiene, cleanliness, food preservation, delivery and storage and display and packaging.



# **PILLAR IV. Increasing Employment Especially Among Youth and Women**

## **Proposed Interventions**

### **Intervention 1 – At Community Level**

- Construction and set up of equipped kitchen facilities managed by targeted women from both rural and urban settings and trained in schools catering management.
- Strengthening local farmers' production and establishing local supply chains for commodity procurement of school meal services.

### **Intervention 2 – At Ministry Level**

- Vocational training and technical support to targeted women (including those coming from disadvantages groups and refugee women) on culinary basics, school catering and food business management.
- Vocational training and technical support to targeted smallholder farmers, including female agricultural outreach workers, on how to increase their agricultural production and sales.

### **Intervention 3 – At Policy Level**

- Develop a qualification and vocational training programme on culinary basics, school catering and food business management with formal accreditation from an examining body.



# **PILLAR V. Reforming Marketing, Trade and Pricing Policies**

## **Proposed Interventions**

1. Enhance market integration of farms in their respective value chains.
2. Reduction and better targeting of consumer prices subsidies.
3. Mobilize resources and expertise to develop a comprehensive trade strategy with clear impact assessment .
4. Build on the “National development plan of 2010-2014”.

# GENERAL ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

## Improving Food Security & Nutrition in Iraq

- ⦿ Addressing the Key Challenges: A holistic and coherent food and nutrition security policy.
- ⦿ Establishing a coordination mechanism between all actors: Governing zero hunger.
- ⦿ Establishment of a process to develop a holistic and coherent Food and Nutrition Security Policy based on specific actions and recommendations.
- ⦿ Applying a food security and nutrition lens to capacity with regard to individuals, organizations, and wider systems (including cross-sectoral mechanisms and platforms for engagement).



# SPECIFIC ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

## PILLAR I: Improving Safety Net Instruments

- ⦿ Perfect targeted cash transfer to poor people and the most vulnerable households.
- ⦿ Consider alternative food baskets for the PDS that are more effective in addressing food and nutritional security.
- ⦿ Enhance the information system required to rationalize social transfers and support to poor needy and vulnerable people.
- ⦿ Distinguish between permanent social welfare beneficiaries registered in the SSN and temporary beneficiaries suffering from acute poverty due to unemployment or other temporary conditions.
- ⦿ Link the SSN and the PDS, which provides an entry point to the comprehensive reform of social protection in Iraq. This could Improve targeting mechanisms and expand base coverage (move to cash based transfer).
- ⦿ Create an effective monitoring and evaluation system with clear targets and quantifiable performance indicators.

# SPECIFIC ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

## PILLAR II: Enhancing Sustainable Agricultural Production

- Adopt a cohesive sustainable agricultural approach by swiftly aligning the current agricultural practices and policies with other food security and nutrition related policies and programs in order to confront the serious contextual and climatic challenges ahead.
- Strengthen public investments (in salinity management, land reclamation and irrigation and drainage systems) and provisions of socially profitable interventions, particularly agricultural infrastructure development and agricultural research and extension, while transitioning from output and input price subsidies.
- Diversify crops and introduce new technologies for a more productive sector
- Devote special attention to the development of effective and diversified seeds systems based on improved genetic performances that can help to overcome the effects of climate change.
- Identify and prioritize local needs and support “Provincial Reconstruction Teams” that have been set up to provide technical assistance to support microfinance institutions (MFIs), agribusiness programs, value chains and markets, and the marketing of agricultural products with special emphasis to the livestock sector.



# SPECIFIC ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

## PILLAR III: Addressing the Double Burden of Poor Nutrition

- ④ Promote public-private partnership approaches to create a participatory environment, especially to improve healthy food preferences, local and seasonal food consumption and efficient and stable supply chains.
- ④ Increase the level of holistic and integrated nutrition-sensitive agricultural interventions aimed at improving the nutritional status of all age groups
- ④ Integration of the nutrition education component in the national curriculum at primary level and the reframing of ad-hoc school feeding systems.
- ④ Strengthen monitoring and surveillance systems for nutrition, including government base-line measures, regular inspections to ensure quality standards and regular data collection on nutritional quality of the food against children's wellbeing and educational attainment.

# SPECIFIC ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

## PILLAR IV: Increasing Employment Especially Among Youth and Women

- ④ Additional investment needed in cooperatives and business incubators to increase employment in rural areas diversifying their services and the important of integrated activities involving women.
- ④ Design and implement a national strategy to revitalize the vocational training system, in order to incorporate the latest knowledge and research and be able to accommodate the requirements of the labour market.
- ④ Investments on the modernization of Iraq training equipment and the establishment of new training centres, as well as relevant opportunities to develop the capacities of the educational staff in line with the technical advancements.
- ④ Explore alternative educational approaches, including mobile learning units, remote learning, the Internet, television, social media and mobile phones as effective channels for knowledge to address rural-urban disparities.



# SPECIFIC ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

## **PILLAR V: Reforming Marketing, Trade and Pricing Policies**

- ⦿ Enhance market integration of farms in their respective value chains
- ⦿ Reduction and better targeting of consumer price subsidies
- ⦿ Mobilize resources and expertise to develop a comprehensive trade strategy with clear impact assessment
- ⦿ Build on the National Development Plan of 2010-2014

# IMPLEMENTATION ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS

## Financial Needs for the Period 2019-2022

PILLAR - ACTION	Average Annual Investment Costs (USD Million)	Annual Recurrent Costs (USD Million)
1. Improving safety net instruments	1	1980.15
2. Enhancing sustainable agriculture production	2210	150.06
3. Addressing the double burden of poor nutrition	4.12	3.825
4. Increasing employment especially among youth and women	66.5	41.92
5. Reforming marketing, trade and pricing policies	19	2.85
TOTAL	2300.62	2178.80



# WAY FORWARD

## Next Steps

- ⦿ Engage civil society in the strategic review
- ⦿ Engage more broadly with partners, including UN (WFP, FAO, UNESCO, UNAMI, etc.)
- ⦿ Discuss how the ZHSR will be used in government planning
- ⦿ Implementation of the Zero Hunger Programme

# Thank You

*ICARDA – WFP Iraq – IRAQI PARTNERS  
TOWARDS ZERO HUNGER IN IRAQ*

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