

Food Banking and Food Insecurity in High-Income Countries / Project in Iraq

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Keywords: Food bank . Food Security . social solidarity

Summary:

During recent events like Covid-19 Pandemic it was really hard to find descent way to feed people in need for food without humiliation so we establish an organization called Iraqi food bank to help people in need for food in a descent way supported by Iraqi people without any help from the government .

1.Introuction

Food insecurity occurs whenever the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods, or the ability to acquire acceptable food in a socially acceptable way, is limited or is uncertain¹. Food insecurity typically affects those who are most socioeconomically disadvantaged. It may be transient, in that people move in and out of food insecurity as their circumstances change; however, increasingly, people are experiencing chronic food insecurity^{2,3}. In high-income countries where public assistance fails to meet community need, food aid services, such as food banks, community kitchens, soup vans, and subsidized community markets have been established to bridge the food security gap⁴⁻⁷. These services, often termed 'emergency food aid', are typically intended as short-term solutions for those who are economically, geographically and/or socially disadvantaged⁸⁻¹⁰. At the center of emergency food aid efforts are food bank programs. The term 'food bank' can refer

to one of two types of service: a large redistributors of rescued food to smaller charities that provide cooked and/or uncooked food to food insecure populations, or a service that provides grocery items directly to clients ^{4,11}.

1.1 Food insecurity in Iraq

Given the different data of many active organizations in Iraq ¹², we have found out that there is a continuous rise in the prices of basic food splices for many and many reasons over the years,

Figure 1: Trends in Iraqi Consumer, Food and Fuel Price Indexes (1989 - December 2008)

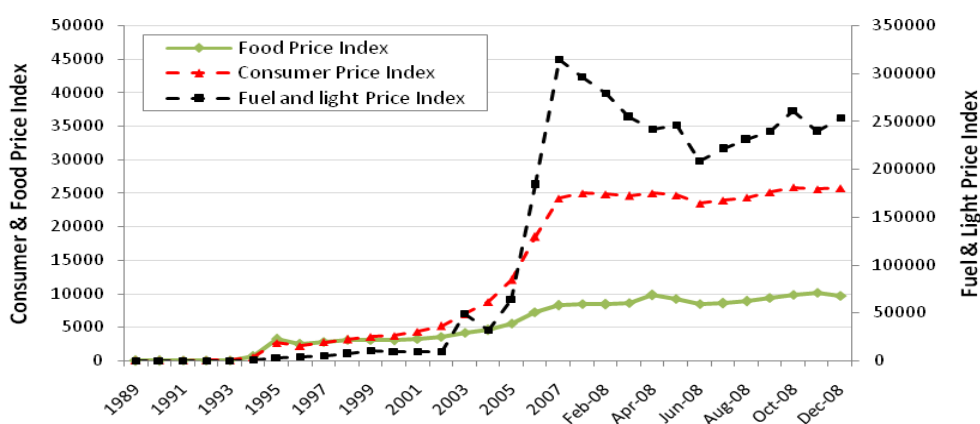


Figure 2: Change in select food prices 2005-2007 ¹³

Item	Change in Price
Bread	59%
Wheat flour	14%
Vegetable oil, animal fat	64%
White Meat	35%
Red Meat	32%
Beans / lentils	87%
Sugar	7%

Including the ongoing wars that directly affect the livelihood of simple working citizens who do not have high qualifications that qualify them to work in

places where they can get a rise in their revenues, in other words, workers who work in simple professions represented in agriculture, construction and others. This working class is considered one of the most affected groups by the rise in food prices, as their income is limited, the increase in the prices of basic food splices due to the wars that occur in Iraq. One of the most important reasons for the high prices of food splices is the difference in the exchange rate of the US dollar to the Iraqi dinar, and Iraq's reliance mainly on imports of food splices¹⁵ that are valued by the dollar price. Not to mention another impact of the wars, which is the displacement from conflict areas in search of safer areas to live in peace away from conflicts.

Consequently, the government faced a very big challenge, which is to provide the basic needs of Iraqi citizens for food, medicine and services in the displacement camps whose people were displaced from their areas inflamed by conflicts and fighting in search of security, and therefore the Iraqi government has failed in many things to provide the simplest forms of decent living for the citizens in the displacement camps. Civil Society Organizations represented by foreign organizations and organizations supported by the Iraqi private sector and donors have intervened to supply displacement compounds and camps with basic materials or basic needs that ensure that they live under the harsh conditions they suffer from, including water, food, medicine and some other services. After all so far, neither the government nor the Civil Society Organizations have found a final solution or a radical solution to the problem of food security.¹⁴

1.2 Covid19 effect on food security

Due to the Corona pandemic hitting Iraq and the imposition of lockdown, Citizens with limited income are stranded in providing the basics of daily life from basic food splices, not to mention medicine and other services. As for the remaining displacement camps, the situation has become much worse and that because of the difficulty in delivering basic aid of food and medicine, as well as the spread of

diseases and the increasing number of infection among them as a result of covid-19 and because of Iraq's rentier economy (that is, its complete dependence on oil imports) and given the drop in global oil prices, which is subject to a sharp rise in consumer prices of basic food splices. The country is facing a great danger, which is the complete collapse of the economy in the country as a result of the country's economic policy, which has become worse for all members of the Iraqi people, as all classes of Iraqi society have been affected by the bad economic situation that the country faced in that period, and all the above is supported by statistics and readings for many organizations, including the FAO.

After all, civil society organizations, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and donors from among the Iraqi people faced great difficulties in securing the needs of the displaced from the basic materials for the financial difficulties that were plaguing the country.

Many of the working class citizens joined the displaced category, whose monthly income was severely affected as a result of the circumstances.

The current situation, as well as the government's inability to finding quick and successful solutions to solve this crisis that afflicts all the Iraqi people. Hence the idea of our project emerged, which is to establish the Iraqi Food Bank to create food security for all the Iraqi people.

2.The Project:

The idea of this project is to establish an institution that adopts interest in feeding the people who are most in need of food in first place. This institution will be decentralized and fully supported by the Iraqi people and does not receive any Financial support from the Iraqi government, but rather is satisfied with the financial support from Iraqis in application of the principle of social solidarity.

2.1 The Aim and Idea of this project:

Is to find appropriate ways to feed a large section of the Iraqi society who are in greatest need of food, without feeling humiliated .However, they will get food without any prejudice to their dignity or humiliation.

2.3 Steps:

A workshop has been set out between each of The Head of school and Mr.Waleed Nabeel Al-Darkazli with the students of the International College University School (ICUS) to find solutions to the problem of Food Security in Iraq.

The first and the most important step is to advertise this project and communicate the idea for the largest number of people from this country so we established a website and pages on social networking sites and thus finding funders.¹⁶

Second step is in creating a bank account for this institution in one of the Iraqi banks and depositing the money of donations in this account, and the bank supports this non-profit institution.

Third step is to deal with some restaurant owners to cooperate with this non-profit institution by providing food to the needy in several ways, including:

1- Accepting special coupons that are given by the institution to the needy, and the person in need of food orders food from the restaurant, and the restaurant accepts this coupon and gives food in return for it. The coupon is like money or a cheque . The restaurant pays its dues from the bank with which it has cooperated in advance by the institution

2- A choice of menu is added to the restaurant so that people donate money when going to the restaurant, and the restaurant collects this money and transfers it to meals that are given to the poor through the coupons provided by the institution.



We will add some words in English on the coupons so the people can learn some English words and have their meals at the same time.

All these thoughts are built on simple students' ideas of this school. They crystallized and turned into a non-profit organization that supports and serves a large number of the Iraqi society, and therefore a solution has been found that will develop over the years and crystallize into a big project to find decent food for a large section of Iraqi society suffering from poverty, hunger and destitution. At last we will end hunger in Iraq.

At last, we've printed these coupons and distributed them to a group of people who are in need of food, those who live in camps. After the agreement with many restaurant owners, we hope that those group of people will reach those restaurant to provide them with decent meals to achieve the principle of equality between all Iraqi classes. If not, they can contact us on the numbers found on their received coupons to provide them the amount of the coupon that they can't reach. As a result of the foregoing, a food bank will be established to care for the needy those who suffer because of the all conflicts in the country, and that will achieve a state of balance in Iraqi society like its predecessors in Egypt, Kuwait and others.

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الكلمات المفتاحية: بنك الطعام . الامن الغذائي. العدالة الاجتماعية

الملخص:

خلال الاحداث الاخيرة مثل جائحة كورونا كانت هناك صعوبات حقيقية لايجاد طريقة مناسبة لاطعام الناس الذين هم في احتياج حقيقي للطعام بدون اذلالهم او شعورهم بالمهانة لذلك تم انشاء بنك الطعام العراقي وهي منظمة من منظمات المجتمع المدني لمساعدة الناس الذين هم في حاجة للطعام بطريقة محترمة بدون اي اذلال مدعومة بالكامل من الشعب العراقي بدون اي دعم من الحكومة.