



# WFP Iran Country Brief

## WFP Assistance

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
<b>Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)</b>	<b>18.1 m</b>	<b>3.9 m</b>	<b>0.4 m</b>
IR01 (Jan 2018 – Dec 2020)			

\*April-September 2018

**GENDER MARKER 2A**

WFP operations in Iran aims to ensure food insecure vulnerable Afghan and Iraqi refugee households living in the 20 refugee settlements in Iran are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year.

The three-year Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP), started in January 2018, is an operational framework for WFP assistance to the most vulnerable refugees residing in settlements in Iran. Preparation stage of the ICSP was processed through consultations with the national Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA), WFP sole implementing partner, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), NGOs and donors, in addition to various reviews and assessments conducted between 2014 and 2017. Recommendations were integrated into the design of ICSP, including introduction of a new livelihood activity targeted to households headed by women in support of income generation and to promote their economic participation to address socio-cultural norms that restrict the roles of women and men. The ICSP also introduces food assistance through cash modality alongside the conventional in-kind distribution of fortified wheat flour, and shifts from in-kind oil incentive in support of refugee girl students' education to a cash incentive. Assessments indicated a conducive environment for shifting from food assistance through in-kind distributions to a cash-based transfer (CBT) modality, enabling beneficiaries to prioritize and decide upon their own food needs, increase efficiency and effectiveness and at the same time provide a more dignified modality of assistance that promotes local markets in settlements.

The expected outputs are:

## Highlights

- In February, The first pilot cash distribution took place in Saveh settlement in Markazi Province with population of 5,000 refugees.

1 - Refugee households receive cash-based and in-kind transfers to meet their basic food needs. Food insecure refugees living in the 20 refugee settlements in Iran will be eligible for unconditional WFP assistance using a hybrid transfer modality of in-kind fortified wheat flour and cash transfers which will help to support 80 percent of the daily food needs of food insecure families and 100 percent of the needs for households headed by women with no source of income.

2 - Households with girls who are enrolled in and regularly attend school will receive take home entitlements to increase enrolment and retention rate;

3 - Women refugees receive livelihood support to generate income for their families and increase self-reliance.

Individual capacity strengthening both through education and livelihood activities will bring about self-confidence, self-reliance and self-worth among refugee women, men, girls and boys. Previous outcomes of the fortified cooking oil-for-education initiative has led to positive outcomes of beneficiaries' capacity strengthening through education, contributed to the economic support of households with girls and reduced the incidences of early marriage.

## In Numbers

**30,000** targeted refugees

**29,616** refugees received WFP food assistance in February

**People assisted**  
in February

49%



51%



**Main Photo**

Credit: WFP/M. Khodabakhsh  
Caption: Afghan couple receiving their cash cards from Bank authorities. Saveh settlement in Markazi Province.



**February 2018**

## Operational Updates

- In February the first pilot CBT distribution took place in Saveh settlement in Markazi Province. The remaining settlements will receive their cash entitlements in March.
- Delays in the administrative processes of data collection of refugees from settlements caused two-month delay in starting food assistance through cash modality. All refugees received their full entitlement of fortified wheat flour in February.
- WFP maintains adequate stocks for in-kind food assistance distributions. The amount of available wheat flour which is required for refugees' entitlements covers until July 2018.

## Partnerships

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and BAFIA are the main cooperating and implementing partners for WFP. BAFIA is responsible for coordinating all matters related to refugees and international agencies. Bi-annual joint meetings take place between BAFIA, UNHCR and WFP, and monthly operational coordination meetings monitor the refugee situation and concerns for appropriate action.

## Gender

- WFP, together with UNHCR and BAFIA, continues to advocate for greater participation of women in social and cultural activities through arranging meetings with provincial authorities, refugee councils, settlement authorities and men and women themselves during monitoring visits.

## Country Background & Strategy



The Islamic Republic of Iran, is an upper-middle income country with a population of 80,481,000 people, and is the world's fourth largest refugee-hosting country. Iran has been generously hosting around one million refugees – the fourth largest refugee population in the world – for over 30 years. The vast majority of these, mainly from Afghanistan and Iraq, live in urban areas, with only three percent living in 20 settlements spread across the country.

Despite efforts to facilitate the repatriation of refugees living in Iran, a significant number of poor and food insecure refugee households continue to require humanitarian support, including WFP food assistance. Currently 30,000 of the most vulnerable refugees, live in the settlements throughout the country receiving WFP food assistance. As of January 2018, a historic transitional shift was activated from in-kind assistance to a combination of cash and in-kind transfers under the current ICSP. WFP is also supporting activities that will enhance the livelihoods of refugees and equip them with better skills to rebuild their lives once they go back to their countries.

WFP has been present in Iran since 1987.

Total refugees: 979,410 people

2015 Human Development Index:  
69 out of 188

Income Level: Middle income

Gender Inequality Index: 69 out of  
188

## Donors

Germany, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Multilateral funds and private sector

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