



WFP Iran Country Brief

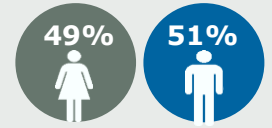
April 2018

In Numbers

265 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 266,108 cash based transfers made

29,856 people assisted in April 2018



Operational Context

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. The Government of Iran has generously hosted approximately one million refugees for the past 30 years. The majority, mainly from Afghanistan and Iraq, live in urban areas. Approximately 30,000 of the most vulnerable refugees live in 20 settlements located throughout the country. In January 2018, WFP Iran started implementation of an Interim Country Strategic Plan ([ICSP, 2018-2020](#)). WFP assistance now incorporates a combination of cash and in-kind food transfers. Additionally, WFP continues to support activities that enhance the livelihoods of refugees, providing them with complementary skills to better equip them for sustainable repatriation once the situation is conducive. 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

Operational Updates

- Since March, WFP has transitioned its assistance from in-kind food assistance to a cash-based transfer (CBT) modality. Provided through a combination of fortified wheat flour and CBT, the assistance will support food insecure families meet 80 percent of their daily needs, and will fully cover the daily food needs of households headed by women with no source of income. All refugees residing in the 20 settlements in Iran are eligible for WFP's unconditional food assistance.
- During April, 29,856 refugees: including 8,360 females, 8,360 males, 6,269 girls including 2,853 school girls and 6,867 boys, received a total cash transfer of USD 266,108 and 265 mt of fortified wheat flour entitlements.
- Under Activity 2 of the ICSP: *providing conditional support to refugee women and girls to incentivize and facilitate educational and livelihood activities*, WFP has shifted from providing in-kind vegetable oil incentives to families in support of refugee girl students' education to a monthly CBT entitlement. Households with girls who are enrolled in and regularly attend school receive cash entitlement (USD 5 for each student), encouraging families to continue the education of girls, increasing school enrolment and maintaining retention rates. Previous assistance of the fortified vegetable oil education initiative resulted in positive outcomes, including capacity strengthening through education, contributing to the alleviation of economic stress of households with girls, and reduced the incidences of early marriage.
- WFP Iran is in the process of setting up a hotline for refugees residing in settlements to facilitate their communications with WFP office. Feedback mechanisms relied previously on complaint boxes in settlements. Introducing WFP hotline is a positive step towards accountability and direct communications with refugees.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/M.Khodabandeh
Caption: A refugee girl student in Naseri settlement, after receiving her cash card.

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WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
Interim Country Strategic Plan IR01 (Jan 2018- Dec 2020)		
18.1 m	4.0 m	--

*May-October 2018

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.



WFP Iran Activities

SO 1 Food insecure refugees in Iran are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year.

Monitoring

- In April, WFP Iran conducted a monitoring mission to Torbat e Jam settlement, in Khorassan province, one week after transferring cash to refugees' bank accounts. The objective of the mission was to ensure that refugees are aware of their entitlements, providing information of the new modality of assistance. The monitoring team also had focus group discussions with male and female refugees to receive feedback on the new modality. Overall, all refugees were satisfied with the CBT. The monitoring report and key findings will be published in May 2018. WFP Iran is conducting monthly process monitoring exercise after each cash distribution, each month in a different settlement(s). The relevant reports will be published per settlement to be shared with WFP partners.

Challenges

- Processing time for issuing monthly data from the field has been lengthy for the past two months. This has caused delay in monthly cash transfers to beneficiaries. WFP Iran is working closely with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) to mitigate this delay as much as possible.

Partnerships

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) are the main cooperating and implementing partners for WFP. BAFIA is responsible for

Donors

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