



WFP Iran Country Brief

May 2018

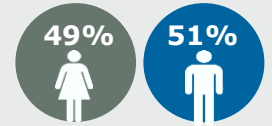
In Numbers

280 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 301,190 cash based transfers made

USD 0 through to the end of 2018 (June-December 2018)

29,888 people assisted in May 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

- During May, WFP successfully reached 29,888 refugees: including 8,369 females, 8,359 males, 6,276 girls including 2,883 school girls and 6,874 boys, received a total cash transfer of USD 301,190 and 280 mt of fortified wheat flour entitlements.
- Since March, WFP has transitioned its assistance to beneficiaries from in-kind food assistance to a cash-based transfer (CBT) modality. Provided through a combination of fortified wheat flour and CBT, WFP continues to support food insecure families meet 80 percent of their daily needs. For households headed by women with no source of income, WFP's assistance fully covers their daily food needs. All refugees residing in the 20 settlements in Iran are eligible for WFP's unconditional food assistance.
- 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 and reduce the incidences of early marriage.

The benefits of cash based transfers (CBT) are manifold. This modality empowers people to make choices about what they eat and will lead to more diversified diets and improved nutrition. Furthermore, cash transfers are known to have a multiplier effect on the local economy and strengthen local markets, encourage smallholder farmers to be more productive and build national capacities.

WFP Country Strategy		
Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Seven Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
Interim Country Strategic Plan IR01 (Jan 2018- Dec 2020)		
18 m	4.0m	0

*June-December 2018



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 May, WFP Iran conducted a scheduled monitoring mission to Semnan settlement, located in the Semnan province, one week after transferring cash to refugees' bank account. 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 held separate 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 June 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

Due to difficulties relating to international sanctions on Iran's banking sector, there were slight delays to WFP's scheduled cash transfers into refugees' bank accounts. Despite this, all beneficiaries received their assistance

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

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.

Donors

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