



WFP Iran Country Brief

June 2018



Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran, is an upper-middle income country with a population of 80,500,000 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 (<http://www1.wfp.org/operations/ir01-iran-country-strategic-plan-2018-2020>). WFP assistance now incorporates a combination of cash and in-kind food transfers. WFP provides in-kind and cash transfer to all the refugees enabling them to access up to 80% (1,633 kcal) of a daily nutritional requirements. Monthly transfer will equal to 9 kg of wheat flour and USD 9.56. The complementary ration to the most vulnerable households - headed by women - was recommended by the JAM in 2016. The proposed nutritional value of the reference food basket for this group is estimated at 2,103 kcal and monthly transfer value per person will be topped up by USD 1.06.

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

Income Level: **Middle Low**

2015 Human Development Index: **69** out of **188**

Gender Inequality Index: **69** out of **188**

**Main
Photo**

Credit: WFP/Yalda Ashtari
Caption: Refugee children in Shahid Naseri settlement, Markazi Province interacting with WFP Deputy Regional Director

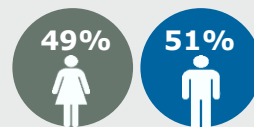
In Numbers

271 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 302,843 cash based transfers made in June

USD 1.4 million six-months Net Funding Requirements (July-December 2018)

29,902 people assisted in June 2018



Operational Updates

- During June, WFP successfully reached 29,902 refugees targeted for assistance. This included 8,373 females, 8,373 males, and 6,279 girls, as well as 2,912 school girls and 6,877 boys. Beneficiaries received a total cash transfer of USD 302,843 and 271 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 a cash entitlement (USD 5 for each student). This is used to encouraging families to continue the education of girls, increasing school enrolment and maintaining retention rates and reduce the incidences of early marriage.

There are multiple benefits to the use of CBT. This modality empowers people to make choices on what they eat and can contribute to a more diversified diet 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.

Contact info: Dara Darbandi (dara.darbandi@wfp.org)
Country Director: Negar Gerami
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/iran

WFP Country Strategy

Total Requirement (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Months Net Funding Requirements in USD (July-December)
Interim Country Strategic Plan IR01 (Jan 2018- Dec 2020)		
18 m	4 m	1.4 m

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 June, WFP Iran conducted a scheduled monitoring mission to Bani Najar settlement, located in Khuzestan 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 as well as school girls 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 July 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

- In June, WFP Iran faced technical difficulties providing its scheduled CBT transfer. This came as a result of poor internal coordination between the central Tejarat bank and its provincial branches. In response, WFP requested for a technical meeting with the central bank to find practical solutions.

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.

