



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Iran Country Brief July 2018



Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran, is an 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 implementing the [Interim Country Strategic Plan](#). WFP assistance now incorporates a combination of cash and in-kind food transfers. WFP provides in-kind and cash transfers to all refugees, enabling them to access up to 80% (1,633 kcal) of the daily nutritional requirement. Monthly transfers will equal to 9 kg of wheat flour and are equivalent to USD 9.56. The complementary ration to the most vulnerable households - headed by women - was recommended by the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in 2016. The proposed nutritional value of the reference food basket for this group is estimated at 2,103 kcal and the 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.



Population: 80,500,000

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

Income Level: **Middle Low**

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

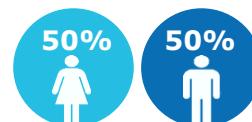
In Numbers

267 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$286,845 cash based transfers made

US\$1.5 m six months (August 2018 - January 2019) net funding requirements

29,996 people assisted
in JULY 2018



Operational Updates

- During July, WFP successfully reached 29,996 refugees of the 30,000 that were targeted for assistance. This included 8,399 women, 8,399 men, and 6,299 girls, and 6,899 boys. The people assisted received a total cash transfer value of USD 286,845 and 267 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 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.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2018 – January 2019)
18 m	4 m	1.5 m

Challenges

- N/A

Donors

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

Main photo

Credit: WFP/Saeid Honaramooz

Caption: Refugee school girl in Meybod settlement, Yazd Province receiving her monthly cash entitlement

Second page photo

Credit: WFP/Yalda Ashtari

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

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

Focus area: *Refugees*

Activities:

- Activity 1: Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees
- Activity 2: Provide conditional support to women and girl refugees to incentivize and facilitate educational and livelihood activities

Monitoring

- In July, WFP Iran conducted a monitoring mission to Ardakan and Meybod refugee settlements, located in Yazd 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 type of assistance. The monitoring team held separate focus group discussions with women and men from the refugee community as well as with school girls, to receive their feedback. Overall, all refugees were satisfied with the cash transfers. The monitoring report and key findings will be published in August 2018. WFP Iran is conducting monthly process monitoring exercises after each cash distribution, each month in different settlements. The reports will be published per settlement and will be shared with WFP partners.

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, the UN Refugee agency and WFP, while monthly operational coordination meetings monitor the refugee situation and concerns for appropriate action.