



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Iran Country Brief

August 2018



## Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran, is a 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**

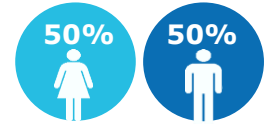
## In Numbers

**278 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$276,580** cash based transfers made

**US\$1.7 m** six months (September 2018 - February 2019) net funding requirements

**30,053 people assisted**  
in August 2018



## Operational Updates

- During August, WFP successfully reached 30,053 refugees as had targeted for assistance. This included approximately 8,400 women, 8,400 men, and 6,900 girls, and 6,300 boys. The people assisted received a total cash transfer value of USD 276,580 and 278 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 encourage families to continue the education of girls, increasing school enrolment and maintaining retention rates as well as 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.

## Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2018 – February 2019)
<b>18 m</b>	<b>4 m</b>	<b>1.7m</b>

### 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 August, WFP Iran conducted a process monitoring mission to eight small settlements (Ziveh, Dilzeh, Bezileh, Songhor, Abazar, Sarvestan, Jahrom and Dalaki). During the visits the team did the on-site monitoring for wheat flour distribution process, visited warehouses and interviewed refugees. The team also took the opportunity to conduct separate focus group discussions with groups of women and men from the refugee community to receive their feedback on the cash based transfer modality. Overall, all refugees were satisfied with the cash transfers. The monitoring report and key findings will be shared with WFP partners by the end of September 2018.
- The Country Office initiated remote monitoring through phone calls to refugees on a monthly basis. This type of monitoring is conducted over the phone, shortly after monthly cash distribution take place, through contacting a sample of 2.5 percent of the beneficiaries. The calls aim at ensuring that the targeted population has received the cash entitlement, has enough information regarding cash assistance and its redemption and verify whether beneficiaries have faced any difficulty associated with their bank cards.

Photo credit: WFP/M. Khodabakhsh

Caption: Refugee school girls in Torbate Jam settlement, Khorassan Province

## 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.

## Donors

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