



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Iran Country Brief

September 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 about 3% of 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**

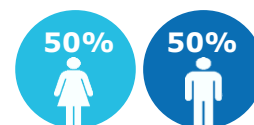
In Numbers

261 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$152,074 cash based transfers made

US\$1.9 m six months (October 2018 - March 2019) net funding requirements

30,089 people assisted
in September 2018



Operational Updates

- During September, WFP successfully reached 30,089 refugees as per the target. This included approximately 8,425 women, 8,425 men, and 6,920 girls, and 6,319 boys. The people assisted received a total cash transfer value of USD 152,074 and 261 mt of fortified wheat flour entitlements.
- Under Activity 2 of the Interim Country Strategic Plan: 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.

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Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2018 – March 2019)
18 m	6.2 m	1.9m

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 September, WFP Iran conducted a mini Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) remotely, via phone calls, to refugees. The survey assessed over 100 households who were visited during last year PDM exercise to monitor and compare their food security levels by measuring the Food Consumption Score (FCS) and Dietary Diversity (DD). In 2017, refugees were receiving food baskets, while in 2018 WFP is providing them with combination of cash and wheat flour.
- 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.

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 donors.

Photo credit: WFP/M. Khodabakhsh

Caption: Refugee children playing in Naseri settlement in Markazi Province