



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iran Country Brief November 2018

Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran, a middle-income country with a population of 83 million, is the world's fourth largest refugee-hosting country. The Government of Iran has generously hosted approximately 1 million refugees for the past 30 years. The majority, who mainly came from Afghanistan and Iraq, lives 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](#). Through a combination of cash and in-kind food assistance, including monthly distributions of 9 kg of wheat flour and cash transfer of USD 9.56, WFP supports vulnerable refugees, enabling them to access up to 80 percent (1,633 kcal) of their daily nutritional needs. Following the recommendations of the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) undertaken in 2016, WFP provides a complementary ration to the most vulnerable women-headed households, including a food basket estimated at 2,103 kcal complemented by a monthly transfer of USD 1.06.

Additionally, WFP continues to support refugees' livelihoods through activities that aim at providing them with complementary skills in view of a sustainable repatriation once the situation is conducive. WFP has been present in Iran since 1987.



Population: **83 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **60 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2016 Global Hunger Index score: **6.7%**

In Numbers

276 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$173,036 cash based transfers made

US\$0.3 m six months (December-May 2018) net funding requirements, representing 64% of total

29,992 people assisted in November 2018



WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP successfully reached 29,731 refugees as per the target. This number includes approximately 8,325 women, 8,325 men, 6,243 girls, and 6,838 boys. The people assisted received a total cash transfer value of USD 173,036 and 276 mt of fortified wheat flour entitlements.
- The Country Office initiated an awareness raising campaign by producing and distributing 7,000 cotton bags amongst refugee households in all settlements. The cotton bags held illustrative messages on "how to have a diverse and healthy diet". The production of bags was undertaken in cooperation with a tailoring workshop in Torbat e Jam settlement which is run by refugees.
- The Country Office is planning to start up a joint pilot livelihood project with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Semnan settlement by establishing a green house. Therefore, a rapid mission assessment conducted to analyse the situation, in October.
- In support of the education of female refugees, WFP has shifted from providing in-kind vegetable oil incentives to families to a monthly cash-based transfer (CBT) entitlement. Households with girls who regularly attend school receive a cash entitlement of USD 5 for each student. This is used to encourage families to continue the education of girls, which increases school enrolment, maintains retention rates, and reduces the incidences of early marriage.
- There are multiple benefits to the use of CBT. This modality empowers people to choose what they eat and can contribute to a more diversified diet for 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 (December 2018 – May 2018) Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
18 m	7.4 m	0.3 m

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: Crisis Response

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

- WFP Iran conducted a post-distribution monitoring between 10 and 22 November in the seven largest settlements (Rafsanjan, Bardsir, Saveh, Semnan, Ardakan, Bani Najar, Torbat e Jam). The mission's findings will be used to report on output and outcome indicators in the Annual Country Report (ACR).
- WFP Iran initiated monthly remote monitoring through phone calls to refugees. This type of monitoring is conducted over the phone, shortly after the monthly cash distributions take place, by contacting a sample of 2.5 percent of the beneficiaries. The calls aim to ensure that the targeted population has received the cash entitlement and has enough information regarding cash assistance and its redemption. The callers also ask whether beneficiaries have faced any difficulties associated with their bank cards. The report is translated into Farsi and shared with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA), WFP's cooperating partner.

Challenges

- Due to the devaluation of the national currency that resulted in a high inflation rate in recent months, WFP Iran, in consultation with BAFIA, decided to increase the monthly transfer value to beneficiaries by 25 percent in October. This changed the monthly cash entitlements from IRR 400,000 (USD 5.0) per person to IRR 500,000 (USD 6.2) per person for male-headed households, and from IRR 450,000 (USD 5.6) per person to IRR 600,000 (USD 7.5) per person for female-headed households.

Partnerships

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and BAFIA are the main cooperating and implementing partners of WFP. BAFIA is responsible for coordinating all matters related to refugees and international agencies. Bi-annual joint meetings take place between BAFIA, the UNHCR and WFP. Monthly operational coordination meetings are held to monitor the refugee situation and discuss appropriate action.

Donors

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

Photo credit: WFP/M. Khodabakhsh

Caption: An Afghan refugee student holding her debit card in Torbate Jam settlement.