



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iran Country Brief April 2019

In Numbers

29,978 people assisted
in April 2019



289 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 176,741 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0.7 m six-month (May-October 2019) net funding requirements

Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran, a middle-income country with a population of 83 million, is hosting the world's fourth largest refugee community. The Government of Iran has generously hosted approximately 1 million refugees for the past 30 years. The majority, that 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 \(2018-2020\)](#). Through a combination of cash and in-kind food assistance, including monthly distributions of 9 kg of wheat flour and Cash-based Transfers (CBT) of USD 9.56, WFP supports vulnerable refugees, enabling them to access up to 80 percent (1,633 kcal) of daily nutritional needs. Following the recommendations of the Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) undertaken in 2016, WFP provides a complementary ration to the most vulnerable woman-headed households, including a food basket estimated at 2,103 kcal that is 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**

2018 Human Development Index:
60 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2018 Global Hunger Index:
24 out of 119 (7.3, Low)

Operational Updates

- In April, WFP successfully reached 29,978 refugees as per target. This number includes approximately 8,419 women, 8,419 men, 6,315 girls, and 6,916 boys. The people assisted received a total cash transfer value of USD 175,741 and 271 mt of fortified wheat flour.
- The Government of Germany confirmed a contribution of EUR 2 million in support of refugees. This contribution will cover all project requirements for a period of four months in 2019.
- In support of the education of woman-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, increasing school enrolment, maintaining retention rates, and reducing the incidences of early marriage. CBT have multiple benefits.
- This modality empowers people to choose what they eat and can contribute to a more diverse diet for improved nutrition. Furthermore, cash transfers can have a multiplier effect on the local economy and strengthen local markets, encourage smallholder farmers to be more productive, and build national capacity.

Monitoring

- WFP and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) plan to conduct a joint Urban Assessment in early May in Yazd Province. The overall objective of this assessment is to better understand the vulnerabilities and the needs of female-headed households in urban settings, and to plan for livelihood activities to enhance their self-reliance.

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

Photo Caption: Refugee children reading school books in Saveh settlement. Photo: WFP/Mohammad Khodabakhsh

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

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
18 m	7.5 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (May-October 2019)
6.1 m	0.7 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

Challenges

- Due to the devaluation of the national currency that resulted in a high inflation rate in recent months, WFP Iran, in consultation with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (BAFIA), decided to increase the monthly transfer value to beneficiaries by 25 percent, starting in October 2018.

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 households headed by men. For woman-headed households, the entitlements changed from IRR 450,000 (USD 5.6) per person to IRR 600,000 (USD 7.5) per person.

Partnerships

- The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and BAFIA are the main cooperating and implementing partners of WFP in Iran. BAFIA is responsible for coordinating all matters related to refugees and international agencies. Bi-annual meetings take place between BAFIA, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and WFP. Monthly operational coordination meetings are also held to monitor the refugee situation and discuss appropriate actions.