



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Iran Country Brief May 2019

## In Numbers

30,101 people assisted  
in May 2019



277 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 172,522 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0 m six months (June–November 2019) net funding requirements

## Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran, a upper 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, which 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: Upper middle

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

## Operational Updates

- In May, WFP successfully reached 30,101 refugees as per target. This number includes approximately 8,428 women, 8,429 men, 6,321 girls, and 6,923 boys. The people assisted received a total cash transfer value of USD 172,522 and 277 mt of fortified wheat flour.
- Millions of Iranians were affected severely by floods which happened in late March 2019. Following a request from the Government and the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), WFP Iran delivered mixed commodities in the form of 12,000 family emergency food packages equivalent to USD 600,000 that catered to the food and nutritional needs of at least 50,000 people for one month in Khuzestan Province.
- 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.
- The CBT 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.

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Photo Caption: Distribution of emergency food packages in Khuzestan Province. Photo: WFP/Neda Mobarra

## 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.

## Donors

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)
<b>18.6 m</b>	<b>10.4 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June–November 2019)
<b>6.7 m</b>	<b>0 m</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:** 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 and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) conducted a joint Urban Assessment during the period of 03-08 May in Yazd Province. The overall objective of this assessment is to better understand the vulnerabilities and the needs of households headed by women in urban settings, and to plan for livelihood activities to enhance their self-reliance. During the exercise, which was led by WFP Regional Bureau Cairo and UNHCR HQ, 172 households headed by women were visited and interviewed.

## 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 Immigrants 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 households headed by women, the entitlements increased from IRR 450,000 (USD 5.6) per person to IRR 600,000 (USD 7.5) per person.