



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## WFP Iran Country Brief June 2019

### Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran, an 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 10.62.

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**

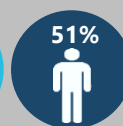
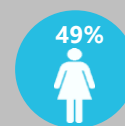
2018 Human Development Index:  
**60 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

### In Numbers

**30,120 people assisted**  
in June 2019



**278 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 171,098** cash-based transfers made

**US\$ 0.3 m** six months (July–December 2019) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- In June, WFP successfully reached 30,120 refugees as per target. This number includes approximately 8,434 women, 8,434 men, 6,325 girls, and 6,927 boys. The people assisted received a total cash transfer value of USD 171,098 and 278 mt of fortified wheat flour.
- A workshop was jointly organized by WFP Iran, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) on 09 June for Afghan health workers who work in refugee settlement's health posts. The aim of the workshop was to raise awareness among refugees on how to maintain a healthy diet using the cash entitlement.
- 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 aims 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.

**Country Director:** Negar Gerami

**Contact info:** Dara Darbandi ([dara.darbandi@wfp.org](mailto:dara.darbandi@wfp.org))

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/iran](http://www.wfp.org/countries/iran)

**Photo Caption:** Iranian children in Khuzestan Province, one of the most flood affected areas in Iran during WFP emergency food distribution.  
Photo: WFP/Neda Mobarra

## WFP Country Strategy



### Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

| Total Requirements<br>(in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD)                                       |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>18.6 m</b>                  | <b>10.4 m</b>  |
| 2019 Requirements<br>(in USD)  | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in<br>USD)<br>(July–December 2019) |
| <b>6.7 m</b>                   | <b>0.3 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

- 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, 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.

## 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. The final report will be published by the end of July.

## 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, 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.

## Partnerships