



WFP Iran Country Brief January 2019

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**

2018 Human Development Index:
60 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

29,736 people assisted
in January 2019



266 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 178,075 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0.7 m six months (February-July 2019) net funding requirements

Operational Updates

- In January, WFP successfully reached 29,736 refugees as per the target. This number includes approximately 8,326 women, 8,326 men, 6,245 girls, and 6,839 boys. The people assisted received a total cash transfer value of USD 178,075 and 266 mt of fortified wheat flour and 24 mt of fortified vegetable oil entitlements.
- The price of food items in the country has increased in the past six months. Therefore, WFP decided to increase the level of its assistance by adding fortified vegetable oil to refugees' food basket as a temporary measure to ensure food security of refugees are met. As of December, each refugee received a bottle of vegetable oil (810 gr) in addition to 9 kg of wheat flour as a monthly food entitlement.
- WFP Iran conducted a one-day refresher training for the staff members of the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (BAFIA). The main objective of this training was to re-train the settlement authorities on warehouse, project management and reporting.
- 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 Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
18 m	7.5 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February –July 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

Monitoring

- WFP Iran conducted a post-distribution monitoring between 10 and 22 November 2018 in the seven largest settlements (Rafsanjan, Bardsir, Saveh, Semnan, Ardakan, Bani Najar, Torbat e Jam). The initial results which were analysed in January 2019 indicate that despite the increase of food prices over the past few months' in Iran, refugees were able to maintain similar food consumption compared with 2017.
- WFP Iran jointly with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and BAFIA are planning for a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in late February to assess the food security and nutrition status of refugees residing in settlements. The assessment also aims to provide strategic and programmatic recommendations to ensure the food and related assistance meet immediate needs, while complementing longer-term refugee self-reliance 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 BAFIA, decided to increase the monthly transfer value to beneficiaries by 25 percent as of 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 women-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 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 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (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.