



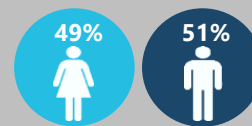
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iran
Country Brief
August 2019

In Numbers



30,075 people assisted
in August 2019

268 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 144,310 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 0 m six months (October 2019 – March 2020) net funding requirements

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)

Operational Updates

- In August, WFP successfully reached some 30,000 refugees as per target, of whom 8,421 were women, 8,421 men, 6,316 girls, and 6,917 boys. The assisted people received a total cash transfer value of USD 144,310 and 268 mt of fortified wheat flour.
- WFP prioritized cash transfers where markets are functional, as they are a way to empower and dignify assisted people. This mechanism enables people to independently choose what to buy and eat, while contributing 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.
- Education incentives under the School Feeding Programme are on hold during the summer break (July -September) and will resume at the start of the new academic year in October.
- WFP Iran received US\$75,000 contribution from The State of Kuwait and one of US\$65,000 from the Republic of Poland, which were used to provide one-month rations of essential foods to 12,400 people worst-affected by floods in Lorestan province. The emergency food parcels include rice, canned pinto beans, canned tuna fish, green lentils, beans, vegetable oil, sugar, tea, and iodised salt. All commodities were purchased from suppliers in Iran, where WFP prioritizes local procurement in support of the local economy, as well as reduce transport costs to the extent possible.
- In line with WFP's Country Programme component in support of refugees' livelihoods, WFP has provided 52 sewing machines in the Sarvestan settlement, where more than 550 Afghan refugees are residing. These sewing machines will be used in tailoring workshops by refugee men and women between the age of 18 to 59 years old as of October 2019.

Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
18.6 m	12.5 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2019 – March 2020)
6.7 m	0 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
- Activity 3: Provide emergency food assistance through cash-based or in-kind transfers to shock affected populations

Monitoring

- During the period of 03-08 May, WFP and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) conducted a joint Urban Assessment in Yazd Province. The overall objective was to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities women-headed households in urban settings, in order to plan for livelihood activities aimed at enhancing their self-reliance. During the exercise led by the WFP Regional Bureau in Cairo and UNHCR headquarters, 172 households headed by women were visited and interviewed. The final report was submitted to the Government of Iran in August.
- From 24-29 August, WFP conducted an on-site monitoring in 6 Iraqi refugee settlements (Ziveh, Dilzesh, Bezileh, Songhor, Varmahang & Abazar). The purpose of these visits was to observe wheat flour distribution, examine cash distribution process and assess the level of refugees' satisfaction in order to identify and eventually address potential issues. The report will be shared with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) in September. The monitoring team also identified opportunities to initiate some livelihood activities in the visited settlements in the near future.

Challenges

- One of the challenges that WFP is facing in Iran since August 2018 concerns the devaluation of the Rials, which has significantly affected the implementation of the cash transfers. Since the cash transfer value is being calculated in USD, while the actual transfer is in national currency, the devaluation of the national currency has resulted in an actual cash transfer in USD (about 2.1%) lower than the initially planned amount.

- The value of the cash transfer was adjusted to mitigate the effects of the devaluation. As a result, WFP changed the monthly cash entitlements from IRR 400,000 per person to IRR 500,000 per person for households headed by men. For households headed by women, the entitlements increased from IRR 450,000 per person to IRR 600,000 per person. However, despite the recent revision of the implementation plan and the consequent adjustments to the cash transfer value, the continuous devaluation is likely to continue to affect WFP's assistance.

Partnerships

- The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and BAFIA are the main cooperating 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.