



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iran Country Brief October 2019

In Numbers

30,144 people assisted
in September 2019



310 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$145,690 distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$0 m six months net funding requirements
(December 2019 – May 2020)

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 September, WFP successfully reached 30,144 refugees as per target, of whom 8,440 were women, 8,441 men, 6,330 girls, and 6,933 boys. The assisted people received a total cash transfer value of USD 145,690 and 284 mt of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil.
- Due to the high inflation in the country, WFP Iran decided to start distributing vegetable oil as a temporary measure to ensure refugees' food security. For six months, from September 2019 to February 2020, 30,000 refugees inside the settlements will receive 24 mt of vegetable oil to (1 bottle/ person) alongside 260 mt of wheat flour (9 kg / person).
- Cash transfers empower people by allowing them 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: Refugee school children in Meybod settlement in Yazd province. Photo: WFP/Parvaneh Saadatmehr

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
19.8 m	12.5 m
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (December 2019 – May 2020)
6.9 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

Monitoring

- During the month of October rapid needs assessment on school feeding conducted in four large Afghan settlements (Saveh, Ardakan, Meybod & Taft). During this exercise 160 households, school and settlement authorities and were interviewed. The initial findings show the importance of providing children with healthy snacks. The final report and data analysis will be ready by the end of November.



Challenges

- One of the challenges that WFP is facing in Iran since August 2018 concerns the devaluation of the Rial, which has significantly affected livelihood activities in the country. WFP Iran is supposed to purchase livelihood equipment to allow participants to start a business or an income generating activity. However, prices volatility made it difficult for WFP to procure the required equipment with the planned entitlements of US\$350 per person.

Partnerships

- The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (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.