



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iran Country Brief November 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, live in urban areas. Approximately 31,000 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**

2019 Human Development Index: **65 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2019 Global Hunger Index: **31 out of 117 (7.9, Low)**

In Numbers

320 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 289,201 distributed through cash-based transfers

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

30,157 people assisted in November 2019

49%



51%



WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP successfully reached 30,157 refugees as per target, of whom 8,444 were women, 8,444 men, 6,333 girls, and 6,936 boys. The assisted people received a total cash transfer value of USD 289,201 and 320 mt of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil.
- The number of refugees supported by WFP has been increased from 30,000 to 31,000. In addition to that, the planned number of refugees to be involved in livelihood activities increased from 300 to 4,800 upon receiving a USD 2 million for livelihood activities from the Republic of Korea and the interest from the government to expand livelihood projects.
- Under the School feeding activity WFP Country Office is planning to distribute milk, biscuit and nuts five days a week amongst 7,000 school girls and boys in primary and junior high school starting from January 2020.
- WFP Iran commemorated 32 years of its presence in Iran during a star-studded ceremony with more than 500 VIP guests, on the evening of Friday 8 November 2019. The event was followed by a special performance by Chaartaar band, one of the most popular and famous Persian fusion bands in the country.

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Photo Caption: Refugee children in Saveh settlement in Markazi province. Photo: WFP/Yalda Ashtari

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

- WFP Iran started conducting the Post Distribution Monitoring mission. During this mission 300 households in seven large settlements (Saveh, Mohajerin, Rafsanjan, Bardsir, Ardakan, Bani Najar & Torbat e Jam) will be interviewed. The data enables the country office to report on its achievements in 2019 and better planning for 2020.

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, price volatility has 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.



WFP Iran celebrated its 32-year presence in the country with a concert by the famous Persian band 'Chaartaar'