



WFP Iran Country Brief December 2019

In Numbers

30,286 people assisted
in December 2019



322 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 285,367 distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$ 0.5 m six months net funding requirements
(February 2019 – July 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 31,000 of the most vulnerable refugees live in 20 settlements located throughout the country.

In January 2018, WFP Iran started implementing its [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:
65 out of 188

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2018 Global Hunger Index:
31 out of 117 (7.9, Low)

Operational Updates

- In December, WFP successfully reached 30,286 refugees as per target, of whom 8,480 were women, 8,480 men, 6,360 girls, and 6,966 boys. The assisted people received a total cash transfer value of USD 285,367 USD and 322 mt of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil.
- In a joint project, WFP Iran and FAO are in final steps to establish a greenhouse in Semnan Settlement to provide livelihood opportunities through income generation for refugees residing in the settlement. This project will start from January 2020.
- 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.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

| Total Requirements (in USD) | Allocated Contributions (in USD) |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 19.8 m | 12.9 m |
| 2020 Requirements (in USD) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2020) |
| 7.0 m | 0.5 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 Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) mission in 2019, totally 335 households in Saveh, Mohajerin, Rafsanjan, Bardsir, Ardakan, Bani Najar & Torbat e Jam settlements were visited. Data is under analysis jointly by WFP and UNHCR. The first results of the report will be ready in January. 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 is the devaluation of the Iranian 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 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.

Tailoring a dream

Setareh Safari was born 20 years ago in Sarvestan settlement in Fars province. Her parents left Afghanistan close to 30 years ago and sought refuge in neighbouring Iran. She is one of thousands of Afghan refugees living in 20 settlements across the country.

Refugees are people with marketable skills and talents, and strongly motivated to build their own livelihoods. We need to allow refugees to participate in the economy that can benefit both refugees and their host communities. To create greater opportunities for all, a strong commitment by donors, refugees and host community is needed.

In order to empower refugees, WFP with support of its donors, contributes towards creating livelihood opportunities for the most vulnerable refugees living in settlements. To achieve this goal, WFP has equipped tailoring workshops in 7 settlements Dalaki, Jahrom, Sarvestan, Songhor, Rafsanjan, Bardsir and Semnan, creating the space for more than 100 refugees to work and generate income for their families.

As part of this project, a year ago, Setareh decided to attend tailoring courses organized by WFP in her settlement. After finishing the course, she got the chance to help her family by working in one of the tailoring workshops sponsored by WFP. She is now making enough money to make a better life for herself and her family.

Setareh aspires to open her own tailoring workshop in Kabul when she returns to Afghanistan.

Donors

Germany, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Multilateral funds, and private sector donors.