



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Iran Country Brief January 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)

In Numbers

30,302 people assisted
in December 2019



283 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 136,595 distributed through cash-based transfers

USD 1 m six months net funding requirements
(March – August 2020)

Operational Updates

- In January, WFP successfully reached 30,302 refugees as per target, of whom 8,485 were women, 8,485 men, 6,363 girls, and 6,969 boys. The assisted people received a total cash transfer value of USD 136,595 USD and 283 MT of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil.
- The construction of a joint WFP/Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) greenhouse project, which was started in November 2019 in Semnan settlement, has been completed. In the final construction stages required work equipment will be made available and the greenhouse will be operational in coming weeks. Under this project 15 refugees will have the opportunity to participate in livelihood activities and be more empowered and self-reliant.
- In close consultation with the government counterparts, refugee communities and donors, in 2018, WFP shifted from its traditional way of distributing in-kind food to a predominantly cash based distribution modality. This combination method offers refugees freedom of choice to buy food items and diversify their food intake while ensuring that bread is available to refugees, as in the past. 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 men buying bread in Saveh settlement in Markazi province. Photo: WFP/Mohammad Khodabakhsh

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
20 m	13 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (March – August 2020)
7.0 m	1 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 and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) prepared the first draft of Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report. After finalization it will be presented to the Government of Iran.

Initial results of the report show that despite the inflation in the market, the Food Consumption Score (FCS) and Dietary Diversity (DD) of the refugees have remained stable compared to the previous year. This can be attributed to the extra cash rations in November and December as well as the temporary vegetable oil distribution, which kept these scores at levels comparable to those in 2019.

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 has been planning to procure livelihood equipment to allow participants of its activities 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 entitlement of US\$ 350 per person.

Partnerships

- The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the 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, UNHCR and WFP. Monthly operational coordination meetings are also held to monitor the refugee situation and discuss appropriate actions.



Photo Caption: WFP team visiting a greenhouse construction site in Semnan settlement. Photo: WFP/Neda Mobarra

Donors

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