



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Iran Country Brief February 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, 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 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 to their country of origin once the situation is conducive. WFP has been present in Iran since 1987.



Population: **83 million**

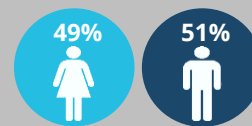
2018 Human Development Index: **65 out of 188**

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers

30,394 people assisted
in February 2020



270.5 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 135,881 distributed through cash-based transfers

USD 1.1 m six months net funding requirements (April – September 2020)

Operational Updates

- In February, WFP successfully reached 30,394 refugees as per target, of whom 8,498 were women, 8,498 men, 6,373 girls, and 6,980 boys. The assisted people received a total cash transfer value of USD 135,881 and 270.5 MT of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil.
- WFP in Iran is planning to commence with a school feeding programme in March and the procurement of food items is underway. WFP plans to distribute milk, biscuits, date bars and seed kernels among 7,000 primary and junior high school girls and boys studying inside all refugee settlements, along with their teachers.
- Thousands of Iranians were affected severely by floods in south-east of Iran in January 2020. The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) requested WFP support for the provision of food assistance. In response WFP delivered mixed commodities in the form of 4,720 emergency family food packages equivalent to USD 205,000 that catered to the food and nutritional needs of 18,800 people for one month in the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan.
- The United Nations World Health Organization (WHO) has raised the global risk assessment for the COVID-19 virus to be "very high". Iran is one of the countries already severely affected by the virus. As an immediate response to the COVID-19 epidemic which has been affecting Iran since late February, WFP in Iran has procured masks, gloves and hand sanitizers for staff in charge of food distributions and school meals in all refugee settlements across the country. WFP is working closely with the Government and the UN country team in Iran to mitigate the impact of the virus on humanitarian work in the country and to protect the people WFP assists.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
19.8 m	13 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2020)
7.0 m	1.1 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 refugee to incentivize and facilitate educational and livelihood activities

Monitoring

- WFP and United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) are preparing the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report and it will be shared with the government in mid-March.

Challenges

- Since August 2018 the devaluation of the Iranian rial has significantly affected livelihood activities in the country. WFP Iran planned to procure 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 USD 350 per person.
- The Country Office is monitoring the development of the of the COVID-19 pandemic closely and is in consultation with the Government partners for further possible assistance to refugees and Iranian community. To minimize the health risk of WFP staff, a work from home modality is in place at the WFP country office in Tehran.

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 response actions.



Photo caption: WFP in Iran has procured personal protection equipment with the aim of protecting warehouse staff in 20 settlements across the country who oversee the distribution of food and school meals to refugees.
© WFP/Neda Mobarra

Donors

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