

SAVING
LIVES

CHANGING
LIVES



Iran (Islamic Republic of) Annual Country Report 2019

Country Strategic Plan
2018 - 2020



World Food
Programme

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Summary

In 2019 Iran has made satisfactory progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2). While achieving zero hunger has not been identified as a priority objective for the Government of Iran in its national development plan, the Government regards food assistance to refugees living in settlements who are deemed as most vulnerable as an important intervention area for WFP.

The second year of the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) 2018-2020 marked a successful period for WFP. Available resources allowed WFP to continue to provide unconditional resource transfers to almost 30,300 refugees and conditional resource transfers to almost 3,000 female students residing in 20 settlements, without interruption. In 2019, WFP also forged ahead with the implementation of initial livelihood activities and managed to establish livelihood opportunities for men and women in three of the largest refugee settlements which WFP assists.

In addition to its regular activities under the ICSP, WFP quickly stepped in to assist the Government and the people of Iran with emergency food assistance following devastating floods in March and April 2019, which affected 25 out of 31 provinces. Upon request of the Government of Iran, WFP procured more than 440 metric tons of mixed food commodities in-country and delivered the same in the form of family emergency assistance packages to 61,500 persons most heavily affected in the two provinces of Lorestan and Khuzestan. Emergency assistance was delivered to Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) warehouses in both provinces and distributed by IRCS volunteers under the supervision of WFP.

WFP continued to promote gender equality and education support by providing monthly cash transfers to girls for full school attendance at primary and junior high schools. Further efforts were made to empower women by prioritizing them for livelihood opportunities and providing cash incentive for those male-headed households who introduced their women as bank cardholders for cash distribution.

WFP also managed to adapt to a fluid economic situation and financial challenges in Iran and ensured uninterrupted assistance to beneficiaries. The sharp decline in the value of the local currency against the US dollar continued in 2019 and resulted in an increase in food prices, negatively affecting the purchasing power of the most vulnerable refugees. To mitigate the negative effects of the price hike, WFP reintroduced vegetable oil - one of the most expensive items in the food basket - to its assistance package from January to March and again from September onward, thus ensuring that beneficiaries always received their basic food requirements.

The blockage of WFP's banking channel in November 2018 due to the US sanctions, practically cut off the means to replenish WFP's financial resources from February until May 2019, when a new license for international transfers from the Office of Federal Assets Control (OFAC) became operational. The decision was taken at the highest level to maintain the operational footprint of WFP in Iran and continue assistance to beneficiaries by authorizing a cash carry operation for a limited period until the banking route was re-established. This decision ensured that cash transfers to the most vulnerable refugees could be maintained by WFP without interruption.

Despite extreme challenges faced in 2019, the results of monitoring data collected after food distributions show that beneficiaries maintained the same level of food security as in previous years. Given the various setbacks, maintaining the status quo was a major achievement and attributable to the fact that WFP, as the main provider of food for most beneficiaries, managed to deliver its assistance in a timely and uninterrupted manner.

WFP maintained very close cooperation with its partners, including the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and international non-governmental organizations such as Relief International and the Norwegian Refugee Council.

Joint monitoring visits by WFP, UNHCR and BAFIA were conducted regularly in the 20 settlements to ensure that refugees had access to adequate quantity and quality of food and to oversee food storage, handling and distribution in settlements [1] and a greenhouse construction project with FAO providing livelihood opportunities to refugees was initiated in February.

91,802

Total Beneficiaries in 2019

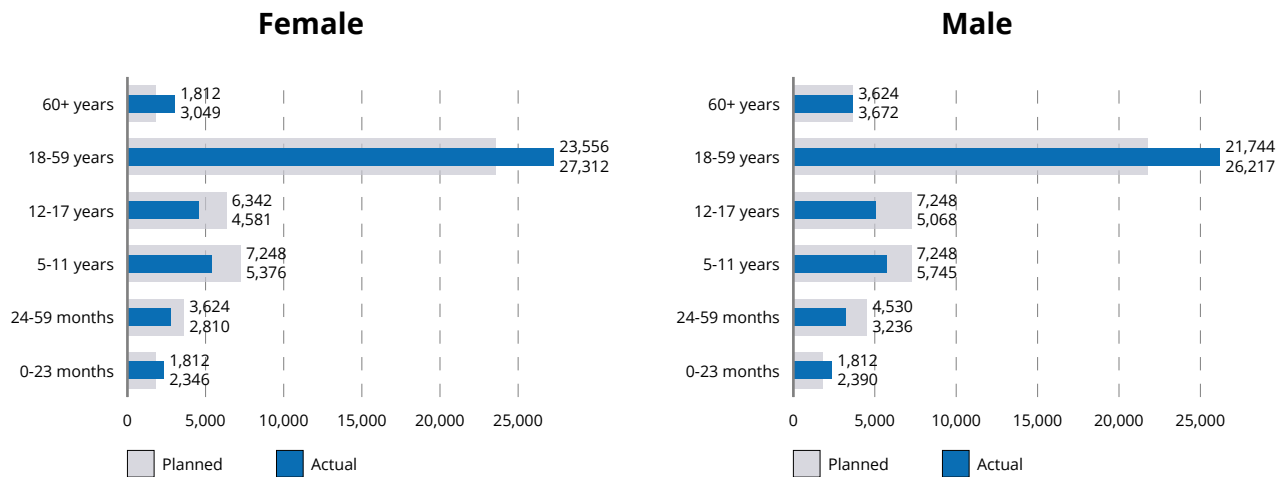


50% female

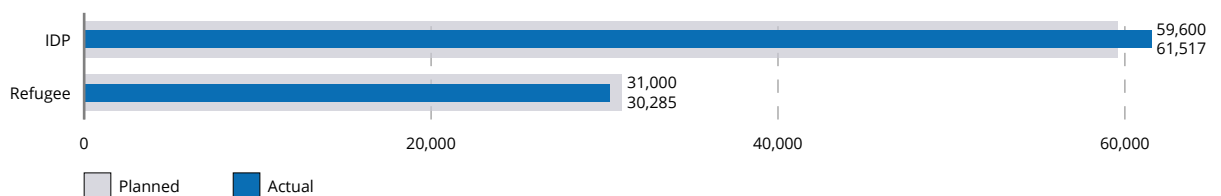


50% male

Beneficiaries by Sex and Age Group



Beneficiaries by Residence Status

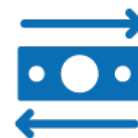


Total Food and CBT



3,918 mt

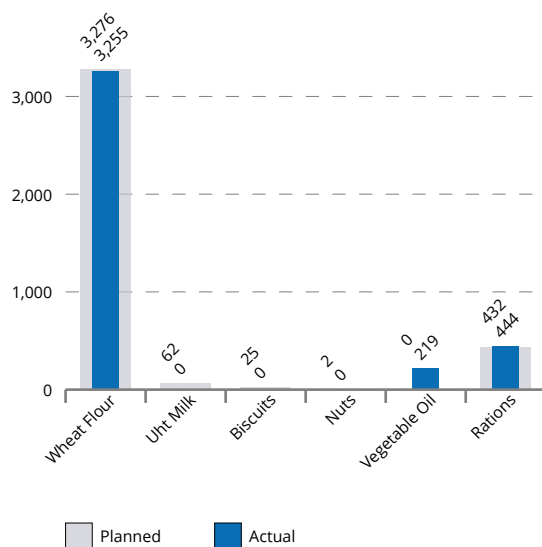
total actual food transferred in 2019
of 3,797 mt total planned



US\$ 2,273,406

total actual cash transferred in 2019
of \$US 3,202,000 total planned

Annual Food Transfer



Annual Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher



Context and Operations



The Islamic Republic of Iran is host to one of the largest and most protracted refugee situations in the world and has provided asylum to refugees for nearly four decades. There are around one million registered Afghan and Iraqi refugees residing in Iran. In addition to registered refugees, Iran hosts approximately 450,000 Afghan passport holders with valid visas, as well as an estimated 2 million undocumented Afghans, the majority of whom are economic migrants. Approximately 97 percent of the registered refugees live in urban areas, while the remaining three percent, equivalent to 31,000 of the most vulnerable population, live in 20 settlements in 13 provinces of Iran. The number of refugees residing in settlements increased over the last year, due to a deteriorating economic situation in the country since wide-ranging economic sanctions were re-imposed in November 2018.

The Governments of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan developed a regional Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) in 2012, the latest update covering the years 2018-2019, in response to the protracted hosting of refugees in Iran and Pakistan. The aim is to identify and implement a comprehensive solution for refugees through joint interventions of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. Through the SSAR, the Government of Iran has committed to support policies and interventions focusing on health, education, livelihoods and food security for as long as refugees remain in Iran and until the situation in their country of origin is conducive for voluntary return. WFP is a signatory to this framework and works closely with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in implementing its interventions in line with the objectives outlined in the regional approach.

WFP has maintained an uninterrupted presence in Iran for 32 years and its operations fall under the crisis response with one strategic outcome contributing towards Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG 2). In contribution towards this SDG, the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) strategic outcome 1 focuses on ensuring that food-insecure refugees and other crisis-affected populations can meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year. The key objective is providing relief to refugees as the security situation remains volatile in Afghanistan, which resulted in refugees not being able to return to their country of origin. In 2019, WFP covered food assistance for the most economically vulnerable refugees living in settlements through in-kind and cash-based transfer (CBT). These refugees are fully dependent on WFP's assistance, as they have limited job opportunities, mostly in irregular and seasonal unskilled jobs.

In September 2019 WFP received a request from the Government of Iran to increase the number of its beneficiaries from 30,000 to 31,000 based on a growing number of refugees who moved from urban areas to settlements. All settlements are managed by the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA) of the Ministry of Interior. Refugees living in settlements are entitled to free shelter and have access to education, primary health care and WFP food assistance within the settlement compound.

In addition to food assistance, WFP also concentrated on individual capacity strengthening of male and female refugees through the provision of livelihood opportunities such as establishing a greenhouse in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and equipping tailoring workshops. Due to an increase in

resources, the individual capacity strengthening activities underwent an expansion as part of the WFP's livelihoods portfolio. In addition, and in order to promote education of refugee girls in line with SDGs 4 and 5 (education and gender equality), WFP provided education incentives to families who sent their girls to primary and junior high school. UNHCR and WFP conducted a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in February, which reaffirmed the positive impact of educational incentives for girls while recommending WFP to explore the possibility of implementing a school meal programme for all children in schools.

Although WFP's operation under the ICSP focuses on assisting refugees, the organization has the capacity and readiness to support the Government and the people of Iran in case of any major natural disaster that would exacerbate the capacity of the Government to respond. WFP has a Letter of Intent with the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) to provide immediate support to the Government in case of natural disasters. In March, Iran experienced torrential rains which continued for several weeks and caused massive flooding in 25 out of 31 provinces. The floods killed more than 75 people and displaced thousands. The government of Iran called upon WFP to support its efforts in responding to the immediate needs of the flood-affected population. WFP immediately stepped in and purchased emergency food packs locally, which were subsequently delivered and distributed by its emergency counterpart, the IRCS, in two of the hardest-hit provinces of Khuzestan and Lorestan.

CSP financial overview

In 2019, WFP received sufficient funding to implement its activities without any interruptions. Although the needs-based plan (NBP) was funded at 90 percent of required resources, the implementation plan for all the activities of the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) was fully funded with remaining balances being carried forward into 2020. A difference between the NBP and the implementation plan resulted because the project was planned in US dollars, while the actual transfer value of the cash-based transfer (CBT) component was paid in local currency. The devaluation of the local currency against the dollar resulted in savings in dollars that were utilized to fully fund the project.

In 2019, WFP was successful in diversifying its donor base to include both traditional donors, such as Germany and the Republic of Korea, and non-traditional donors, such as Kuwait and Poland. This success was due to continuous donor engagement through regular briefings and submitting funding proposals frequently to key donors.

WFP also received funding from WFP's Strategic Resource Allocation Committee, which was granted based on qualitative and quantitative analysis of the net funding requirement of the ICSP in March 2019 to ensure the smooth implementation of its operation. During the flood emergency in April, funding was also received from the WFP Immediate Response Account (IRA), enabling the rapid response to the sudden onset emergency.

Out of the total contributions received for 2019, about 30 percent could be flexibly used for the activities of the ICSP. These were mostly provided by the Republic of Korea, while the rest was earmarked for either activity 1, which required about 76 percent of the total budget, or activity 2, which required about 12.5 percent of the total budget. Activity 3 related to emergency response also required 11.5 percent of the total budget and received an earmarked fund from the IRA account, Kuwait and Poland. It is worth mentioning that all ICSP activities were implemented under strategic outcome 1, ensuring that food-insecure refugees and other crisis-affected populations in Iran could meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year.

Two budget revisions were conducted in 2019. The first one was completed in late April, as it was necessary to expand the ICSP beyond refugees, to assist flood-affected Iranians through an emergency response activity. The second budget revision was conducted in October 2019 for three reasons: 1) an increase in the number of beneficiaries for unconditional resource transfers (activity 1) from 30,000 to 31,000; 2) an increase in the number of beneficiaries participating in livelihood activities (activity 2) of the ICSP, following a generous livelihoods multi-year earmarked fund provided by the Republic of Korea; and 3) the implementation of the school feeding activity for up to 7,000 boys and girls in primary and junior high schools, recommended by the 2019 UNHCR-WFP Joint Assessment Mission and validated through a rapid needs assessment conducted in settlements.

WFP faced a very critical situation in early 2019 as all official banking channels to bring money into the country were blocked due to US sanctions. WFP was the only agency in the country which received exceptional authorization from its headquarters to import cash into the country. From February to June, imported cash ensured business continuity and allowed WFP to provide cash and in-kind support to beneficiaries without interruption. WFP meanwhile opened a bank account with Middle East Bank, which was not under United States secondary sanctions and obtained two licenses from the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), which enabled the office to operate through the banking system.

Programme Performance

Strategic outcome 01

Food insecure refugees and other crisis-affected populations in Iran are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year

Needs-based plan	Implementation plan	Available resources	Expenditures
\$5,927,312	\$5,002,682	\$5,292,873	\$4,450,254

In consultations with the Government of Iran, together with humanitarian and development actors, donor representatives and refugee communities in the country, WFP developed its 2018-2020 Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) with a single strategic outcome aiming to improve the food security and livelihoods of the most vulnerable refugees living in settlements. The year 2019 was sufficiently funded for the WFP country office. The needs-based plan was 90 percent funded but only 75 percent utilized due to the devaluation of the local currency against the dollar. The ICSP could be considered as fully funded, if the available resources are calculated against the implementation plan. Overall, WFP procured more food commodities than originally planned, as vegetable oil distribution was introduced to complement cash transfers from January to March and from September onward until the end of the year to mitigate the impact of high food prices.

As a result of advanced planning and availability of funds, both cash-based transfers (CBT) and in-kind wheat flour were distributed to refugees as food assistance on a monthly basis under activity 1 of its ICSP. Upon request by the government, the initially planned 30,000 beneficiaries were eventually increased to 31,000. WFP reached 98 percent of the overall planned 31,000 refugees targeted in 20 settlements across 13 provinces in Iran through a hybrid modality in which both cash and in-kind assistance was provided on a monthly basis. WFP managed to provide all its beneficiaries' entitlements without interruption, despite a challenging economic context.

WFP continued its robust monitoring strategy that included annual process monitoring, annual post-distribution monitoring (PDM), ad-hoc monitoring visits (18 visits), monthly remote monitoring through phone calls (at least 250 heads of households and students were contacted on a monthly basis) and monthly market price surveys, to ensure successful programme implementation. Inflation had a strong impact on beneficiaries. Based on the statistics from the Central Bank of Iran, the annual inflation rate in 2019 was 39 percent. Having such a high rate of inflation, while income levels remained stagnant, resulted in the reduced purchasing power of the overall population, including vulnerable refugees. [1]

As a result of findings from these monitoring activities, WFP offset the negative impact of the challenging economic circumstances and reintroduced the distribution of vegetable oil from January to March, and then again from September onwards to mitigate the negative effects of high food prices. In addition, beneficiaries received one extra CBT ration during November and December, which is regarded as the lean season in Iran, when work opportunities are low. [2]

Based on 2019 post-distribution monitoring (PDM) results, despite increased prices (which ranged between 0.1 to 92 percent for different food commodities including vegetables, meat, oil and dairy), families were able to maintain similar food consumption patterns as in 2018. Male-headed households reported a slight improvement in their acceptable food consumption score which increased from 77.8 in 2018 to 78.3 in 2019. The level of acceptable food consumption among female-headed households deteriorated by 1 percent from 69.6 to 68.6 which can be attributed to the fact that the sample size of the women-headed households was very small and not a representative sample of the targeted population. Still, this decline could be a result of the deteriorating economic situation and a food item price hike.

Overall the acceptable food consumption score shows a slight improvement from 76.8 in 2018 to 77 in 2019. The levels of negative coping strategies employed by households to meet their basic food needs remained close to those in 2018 despite the currency inflation, which can be attributed to the re-introduction of vegetable oil and the distribution of an extra cash ration during the lean season. According to the PDM findings, the consumption frequency of different food groups has changed since WFP started the cash modality in 2018, as the households had the choice to buy food items based on their preferences. The findings recorded an increase in the consumption of fruit, meat and pulses in 2019 compared to the prior year. Having a hybrid modality of cash and in-kind distribution made the reintroduction of vegetable oil operationally feasible and ensured that beneficiaries could cover their food needs during times of economic hardship.

Under activity 2, WFP provided education incentives to families who sent their girls to primary and junior high school. The aim of this intervention was to empower girls through education and to decrease gender disparity between girls and boys in schools by improving the retention rate of female students. The school retention rate for girls was 100 percent in 2019. Data on the enrolment rate for boys was not made available to WFP as it had no intervention for boys. Monitoring results showed that the money transferred to girls' bank cards was either used by families or the girls themselves to buy food or to pay for school-related expenses, such as stationary. Considering the deteriorating

economic situation and continuous devaluation of the local currency, WFP increased the transfer value to girls' bank cards by 30 percent from IRR 200,000 to IRR 300,000 (approximately USD 3.60). The school feeding component of activity 2 has been pending implementation due to a lengthy review and approval process by the Government.

As part of its capacity strengthening activities under activity 2, WFP managed to equip tailoring workshops in eight settlements, one of which was fully functional in 2019. In addition, WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provided training on the cultivation of aloe vera and established a greenhouse in one of the settlements, which will provide job opportunities for another 15 refugees in 2020. WFP invested USD 100,000 on training for refugees and to provide them with the necessary resources and equipment to generate income. The total number of beneficiaries and value of capacity strengthening transfers was initially planned at a higher level, however, in order to ensure activities were effective and scalable across settlements, WFP rolled out the project as a pilot for a smaller number of refugees.

Under activity 3, in addition to its main interventions focussing on assisting refugees, WFP supported the Government of Iran its response to a sudden-onset flood emergency in two provinces in March 2019. This activity entailed a budget revision of the ICSP, which was approved in April 2019. WFP mobilized Immediate Response funding and purchase an initial 12,300 food baskets which were distributed to flood-affected households in Khuzestan province, where WFP reached about 49,100 people. WFP concurrently raised funding from Poland and Kuwait, and in a second procurement round purchased another 3,083 family food baskets and distributed these among an additional 12,300 flood-affected persons in Lorestan province. WFP procured food items locally and delivered the packages to the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) warehouses. IRCS distributed the assistance using their capacity in the field, while distribution monitoring was carried out by WFP. Since this was one-time support, no monitoring indicator was set for this activity.

Despite challenging circumstances, including a sudden-onset natural disaster and a highly volatile economic situation, WFP Iran managed to achieve its main objective of ensuring that its beneficiaries' food security was maintained at an acceptable level, which was the result of having a healthy pipeline throughout the year.

WFP Gender and Age Marker	
CSP Activity	GAM Monitoring Code
Provide conditional support to refugee women and girls to incentivize and facilitate educational and livelihood activities	4
Provide unconditional food assistance to food-insecure refugees.	3

Cross-cutting Results

Progress towards gender equality

Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population

In Afghan culture, the majority of families are male-dominated and traditional cultural values are prevalent in communities. Females do not have the same freedom of choice, movement or exposure to leadership roles as males. Despite efforts in advocating for greater women participation, serious cultural barriers remain at the community level, especially among the refugee elders. In 2019, WFP included women, men and youth (girls and boys) in all assessments, household visits and focus group discussions (FGD) in order to have a better understanding of the underlying cultural constraints. In both activities 1 and 2, the conditional support smartly targeted women and girls to attenuate the gender gap among beneficiaries.

In the context of activity 1, ahead of receiving CBT entitlements, recipient households were encouraged to nominate a woman as the cardholder and receive additional cash as an incentive for this decision. Having the woman's name on the bank card created the notion of ownership of the cash entitlement, which brought about a sense of empowerment to the women. The outcomes of the PDM 2019 showed the percentage of households in which women make decisions over the use of their assistance is almost double the percentage of households in which men make the decision (33.7 against 14.6). The percentage of families where both men and women decide on the use of provided food and cash also increased by 5 percent. This is an achievement, as having control over financial resources in families is traditionally considered to be a man's role. The percentage of women in committees and boards is reduced by 6 percent compared to last year because some women who were a member of refugee councils or food distribution committees left settlements and were replaced by men. It is worth mentioning that beneficiaries themselves select members of refugee councils.

For activity 2, conditional support was provided to girl students through monthly cash transfers as a means to incentivize parents to send their girls to school. The positive impact of this intervention was re-validated during a 2019 UNHCR-WFP Joint Assessment Mission. The incentive was paid in local currency, which experienced devaluation, and WFP increased the value of this transfer by almost 30 percent to encourage parents to continue sending their girls to school. WFP also initiated its livelihood activities by establishing and equipping tailoring workshops in eight settlements. WFP constructed a greenhouse in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 2019 in one of the settlements as a pilot project for cultivation activities. The 2017 livelihood assessment mission report indicated that most females in settlements did not feel comfortable to work outside the settlement. Taking this into account and in pursuing a no harm policy, WFP ensured that all job opportunities were created inside settlements to facilitate women's participation. Participants benefited from conditional support for acquiring skills and were empowered to have a more substantial role in the income structure of the family. WFP spent almost 4 percent of its total budget for gender-related activities.

Protection

Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity

Safety and security of refugees in settlements remain the responsibility of the Government. Refugees are free to commute in and out of settlements or to travel to nearby cities without any hindrance, and refugee travel in between provinces is authorized via a laissez-passer issued by Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA). Commute of any non-refugee into the settlement is controlled by settlement authorities to ensure no protection issues occur inside the settlement due to non-resident entries.

Warehouses and distribution points are located inside the settlement, normally in an easily accessible central location, where men or women can collect the households' monthly food entitlements during the distribution period without travelling long distances. No safety concerns were reported in 2019. The elderly, or people with a disability, who were not able to carry home their entitlements, receive support from settlement managers or their relatives who live in the same settlement. Even in the settlements with greater cultural sensitivities, WFP encouraged settlement authorities to use a female refugee to assist at distribution points, so that women felt more comfortable with collecting their entitlements.

Although sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) issues are highly sensitive in Islamic culture, WFP encourages refugee women and girls to utilize the WFP dedicated hotline, complaint boxes and informal referral mechanisms via community health workers to report any potential cases of SEA. WFP, in collaboration with a financial service provider (FSP), has established a secure portal for transferring digital files on cash-based transfer (CBT) activities, such as monthly cash payments, registrations and cancellations of debit cards, to ensure the safety and security of beneficiaries' data. There are shops inside almost all settlements where beneficiaries can procure their daily necessary requirements. Most of the shops are equipped with point of sale (PoS) machines at which beneficiaries can easily redeem their cash entitlements.

Less than 10 percent of beneficiaries complained about issues in redeeming their cash assistance during post-distribution monitoring (PDM). The main issue was forgetting the pin code of their debit cards or complaints about automated teller machines (ATM) or PoS machines not working properly at all times. A referral mechanism was established with the FSP (Tejarat Bank) to ensure that beneficiaries can refer to nearby bank branches to reissue their forgotten passwords immediately.

During the PDM conducted from November to December 2019, beneficiaries were asked if they were satisfied with the warehouse condition, and more than 92 percent replied positively. Most of the dissatisfaction, expressed by 8 percent of the respondents, was related to long queues at distribution points in big settlements. [1] There are several mechanisms in place in large settlements to reduce the long queues, including expanding the distribution time from 10 days in small settlements to two weeks in larger settlements and categorizing beneficiaries into different groups to go and collect food entitlements.

Accountability to affected populations

Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences

In response to the needs of the affected population, WFP raised the number of beneficiaries targeted by 1,000 in 2019 and added a school feeding activity to the Interim Country Strategic Plan. WFP continued to conduct biweekly meetings with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs to ensure smooth implementation of the programme.

In line with WFP's goal to empower beneficiaries, in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) a greenhouse was established to create livelihood opportunities. In addition, more potential livelihood activities, such as establishing tailoring workshops, were identified during focus group discussions with beneficiaries, which were established by WFP in 2019.

The complaint feedback mechanism (CFM) has been expanded to a dedicated hotline, the utilization of complaint and feedback boxes in settlements, and monthly remote monitoring through phone calls to almost 250 randomly selected beneficiaries. Furthermore, WFP conducted focus group discussions (FGD) during monitoring visits to register feedback and suggestions received from beneficiaries for programme adaptation. Any complaints that could be addressed by WFP were attended to immediately and if there was any specific issue requiring more specialized support, the case was referred to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with the capacity and the mandate to provide support.

Analyzing calls received by hotline operators indicate that almost one-fourth of the calls were made to query about the exact time of cash distributions. WFP continued to send informative text messages to almost all heads of households' mobile phones to inform beneficiaries on the transferred cash entitlement once the transaction is completed.

Based on PDM result, there was a 4 percent drop in the number of beneficiaries who were informed about their entitlements. This could be attributed to the fact that beneficiaries received two extra cash rations in the last two months of the year for the lean season, as well as extra vegetable oil, which could have been a source of confusion.

About 65 percent of hotline calls were related to cash assistance and problems related to lost and forgotten pin codes, which could be addressed immediately or within less than a week by WFP. In addition, the most common feedback received was the request to increase the transfer value due to market inflation. WFP addressed this request by adding vegetable oil to the food basket as a temporary measure.

WFP field monitors interacted with beneficiaries during field visits and any changes in project planning, such as the introduction of livelihood activities, school feeding initiatives and extra rations, were communicated to them. In June 2019, a workshop was conducted for 40 health workers from 20 settlements on the adjustment of food baskets to tailor them to the needs of children, adolescents, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and the elderly. Issues related to the potential for sexual exploitation and abuse and complaint mechanisms were discussed with them discreetly. Most of them were Afghan refugees who disseminated the received information among beneficiaries upon their return to settlements.

Extra section

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 the 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 local economy, which can benefit both refugees and their host communities. To create greater opportunities for all, a strong commitment by donors, refugees and the host community is needed.

In order to empower refugees, WFP with support of its donors contributed towards creating livelihood opportunities for the most vulnerable refugees living in settlements. WFP has equipped tailoring workshops in Sarvestan settlement by creating the space for refugees to work and generate income for their families.

As part of this project, a year ago, Setareh decided to attend tailoring courses as she was very interested to be a professional tailor. After finishing the course, she got the chance to help her parents and four brothers and sisters by working in the tailoring workshop equipped by WFP. She is now making about USD 100 per month, which helps to make a better life for herself and her family.

"I am really happy that WFP created this opportunity for us. I feel proud that as a woman now I have the chance to work and support my family", Setareh said. She aspires to open her own tailoring workshop in Kabul when she returns to Afghanistan.

Strategic outcome 01

[1] 2019 Iran Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Report

[2] The principal reason that WFP in Iran did not increase the cash transfer value to increase the purchasing power of refugees is that the Iranian host community also receives a monthly cash transfer from the Government since 2010, which is a compensation for the removal of previously provided subsidies. The Government does not agree to refugees receiving more cash assistance than Iranians in order to avoid any conflict between host population and refugees. In late 2018, WFP received approval to increase the transfer value for refugees to the current level. Further increases are not permitted for the time being.

Further information on the Gender and Age Marker can be found here:

<https://gender.manuals.wfp.org/en/gender-toolkit/gender-in-programming/gender-and-age-marker/>

Progress towards gender equality

For the indicator "Proportion of food assistance decision-making entity - committees, boards, teams, etc. - members who are women", 2018 follow-up value serves also as 2019 baseline, since no other previous data is available.

Protection

[1] The three protection indicators on unhindered access, safety challenges and dignified programmes and corresponding survey questions were newly introduced in 2019 and the first round of data collected is used as baseline. The first follow-up data will be collected in 2020.

Figures and Indicators



Beneficiaries by Age Group

Beneficiary Category	Gender	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Total Beneficiaries	male	46,206	46,328	100%
	female	44,394	45,474	102%
	total	90,600	91,802	101%
By Age Group				
0-23 months	male	1,812	2,390	132%
	female	1,812	2,346	129%
	total	3,624	4,736	131%
24-59 months	male	4,530	3,236	71%
	female	3,624	2,810	78%
	total	8,154	6,046	74%
5-11 years	male	7,248	5,745	79%
	female	7,248	5,376	74%
	total	14,496	11,121	77%
12-17 years	male	7,248	5,068	70%
	female	6,342	4,581	72%
	total	13,590	9,649	71%
18-59 years	male	21,744	26,217	121%
	female	23,556	27,312	116%
	total	45,300	53,529	118%
60+ years	male	3,624	3,672	101%
	female	1,812	3,049	168%
	total	5,436	6,721	124%

Beneficiaries by Residence Status

Residence Status	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
Refugee	31,000	30,285	98%
IDP	59,600	61,517	103%

Annual Food Transfer

Commodities	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual vs. Planned
Everyone has access to food			
Strategic Outcome: Strategic Outcome 01			
Wheat Flour	3,276	3,255	99%
Uht Milk	62	0	0%
Biscuits	25	0	0%
Nuts	2	0	0%

Commodities	Planned Distribution (mt)	Actual Distribution (mt)	% Actual vs. Planned
Vegetable Oil	0	219	-
Rations	432	444	103%

Annual Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher

Modality	Planned Distribution (CBT)	Actual Distribution (CBT)	% Actual vs. Planned
Everyone has access to food			
Cash	3,202,000	2,273,406	71%

Strategic Outcome and Output Results

Strategic Outcome 01	Food insecure refugees and other crisis-affected populations in Iran are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year	- Crisis Response - Emergency Response						
Activity 01	Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual		
Output A	Refugee households receive cash-based and in-kind transfers and meet their basic food needs.							
A.1	Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	All	General Distribution	Female Male Total	15,190 15,810 31,000	14,840 15,446 30,286		
A.1	Beneficiaries receiving cash-based transfers	All	General Distribution	Female Male Total	15,190 15,810 31,000	14,798 15,402 30,200		
A.2	Food transfers			MT	3,276	3,474		
A.3	Cash-based transfers			US\$	3,067,360	2,209,390		
Activity 02	Provide conditional support to refugees, especially to women and girls, to incentivise and facilitate educational and livelihood activities.	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual		
Output A	Households with girls enrolled in, and regularly attending school receive take home entitlements to increase the enrolment and retention rate							
Output A, C	Refugees, especially women, receive livelihood support to generate income for their families and increase self-reliance.							
Output A, C	Women refugees receive livelihood support to generate income for their families and increase self-reliance.							
Output A	Schoolchildren at the primary and secondary school levels receive snacks every day they attend school							
A.1	Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	All	School feeding (on-site)	Female Male Total	3,304 3,696 7,000			
A.1	Beneficiaries receiving cash-based transfers	All	Individual capacity strengthening activities	Female Male Total	3,300 0 3,300	2,920 0 2,920		
A.2	Food transfers			MT	89	0		
A.3	Cash-based transfers			US\$	134,640	64,016		

A.10*	Total value (USD) of capacity strengthening transfers								
	Total value (USD) of capacity strengthening transfers		Food assistance for asset	US\$	437,500	100,000			
C.1	Number of people trained								
	Number of direct beneficiaries receiving Capacity Strengthening transfers (Male)		Food assistance for training	Number	125	9			
	Number of direct beneficiaries receiving Capacity Strengthening transfers (Female)		Food assistance for training	Number	125	23			
Activity 03	Provide emergency food assistance through cash-based or in-kind transfers to shock affected populations	Beneficiary Group	Activity Tag		Planned	Actual			
Output A	Affected populations receive CBT or in-kind food assistance in order to meet basic food needs and preserve their nutrition status."								
A.1	Beneficiaries receiving food transfers	All	General Distribution	Female	29,681	30,143			
				Male	29,919	31,373			
				Total	59,600	61,516			
A.2	Food transfers			MT	432	444			
Outcome results				Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value	
Girls students (primary and junior high school) reside in 20 settlements; Iran									
Retention rate									
	Act 02: Provide conditional support to refugees, especially to women and girls, to incentivise and facilitate educational and livelihood activities.	Individual capacity strengthening activities	Female	70	≥90	≥80	100	89.30	
			Male	0	≥0	≥0	0	0	
			Overall	70	≥90	≥80	100	89.30	
Refugees reside inside 20 settlements; Iran									
Food Consumption Score									
Percentage of households with Acceptable Food Consumption Score	Act 01: Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees	General Distribution	Female	76.50	≥76.50	≥76.50	68.60	69.60	
			Male	79.30	≥79.30	≥79.30	78.30	77.80	
			Overall	78.90	≥78.90	≥78.90	77	76.80	
Percentage of households with Borderline Food Consumption Score	Act 01: Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees	General Distribution	Female	17.60	≤17.60	≤17.60	20	26.10	
			Male	18.50	≤18.50	≤18.50	16.30	16.80	
			Overall	18.40	≤18.40	≤18.40	17	18	
Percentage of households with Poor Food Consumption Score	Act 01: Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees	General Distribution	Female	5.90	≤5.90	≤5.90	11.40	4.30	
			Male	2.20	≤2.20	≤2.20	5.30	5.40	
			Overall	2.60	≤2.60	≤2.60	6	5.20	

Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (Average)

	Act 01: Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees	General Distribution	Female	14.44	≤14.44	≤14.44	9.40	10.60
			Male	15.86	≤15.86	≤15.86	11.60	11.09
			Overall	15.70	≤15.70	≤15.70	11.30	11.03

Cross-cutting Indicators

Affected populations are able to benefit from WFP programmes in a manner that ensures and promotes their safety, dignity and integrity								
Proportion of targeted people accessing assistance without protection challenges								
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Female/Male/Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Refugees residing inside 20 settlements; Iran	Act 01: Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees	General Distribution	Female	100	≥90	≥90	100	100
			Male	100	≥90	≥90	98.80	99.70
			Overall	100	≥90	≥90	99	99.80
Proportion of targeted people having unhindered access to WFP programmes (new)								
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Female/Male/Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Refugees residing in 20 settlements; Iran	Act 01: Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees	General Distribution	Female	90.70	=100	=100		
			Male	93.90	=100	=100		
			Overall	91.30	=100	=100		
Proportion of targeted people receiving assistance without safety challenges (new)								
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Female/Male/Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Refugees residing in 20 settlements; Iran	Act 01: Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees	General Distribution	Female	100	≥90	≥90		
			Male	100	≥90	≥90		
			Overall	100	≥90	≥90		
Proportion of targeted people who report that WFP programmes are dignified (new)								
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Female/Male/Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Refugees residing in 20 settlements; Iran	Act 01: Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees	General Distribution	Female	91.40	≥90	≥90		
			Male	95	≥90	≥90		
			Overall	92.20	≥90	≥90		

Improved gender equality and women's empowerment among WFP-assisted population									
Proportion of food assistance decision-making entity – committees, boards, teams, etc. – members who are women									
Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Category	Female/Male/Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Refugees residing in 20 settlements; Iran	Act 01: Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees	General Distribution		Overall	28	≥30	≥30	22	28
Proportion of households where women, men, or both women and men make decisions on the use of food/cash/vouchers, disaggregated by transfer modality									

Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Category	Female/Male/ Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Refugees residing inside 20 settlements; Iran	Act 01: Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees	General Distribution	Decisions made by women	Overall	64.50	≥33.70	≥39	33.70	38.70
			Decisions made by men	Overall	7.90	≤14.60	≤14	14.60	14.40
			Decisions jointly made by women and men	Overall	27.60	≥51.70	≥47	51.70	47

Affected populations are able to hold WFP and partners accountable for meeting their hunger needs in a manner that reflects their views and preferences

Proportion of assisted people informed about the programme (who is included, what people will receive, length of assistance)

Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Female/Male/ Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Refugees residing inside settlements; Iran	Act 01: Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees	General Distribution	Female	44	≥80	≥70	92.90	97.30
			Male	27.90	≥80	≥70	97	96.20
			Overall	40.80	≥80	≥70	93.70	97

Proportion of project activities for which beneficiary feedback is documented, analysed and integrated into programme improvements

Target group, Location, Modalities	Activity Number	Activity Tag	Female/Male/ Overall	Baseline	End-CSP Target	2019 Target	2019 Follow-up value	2018 Follow-up value
Refugees residing in 20 settlements; Iran			Overall	100	=100	=100	100	100

World Food Programme

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Afghan refugee girl carrying home bread made with WFP flour in Semnan settlement.

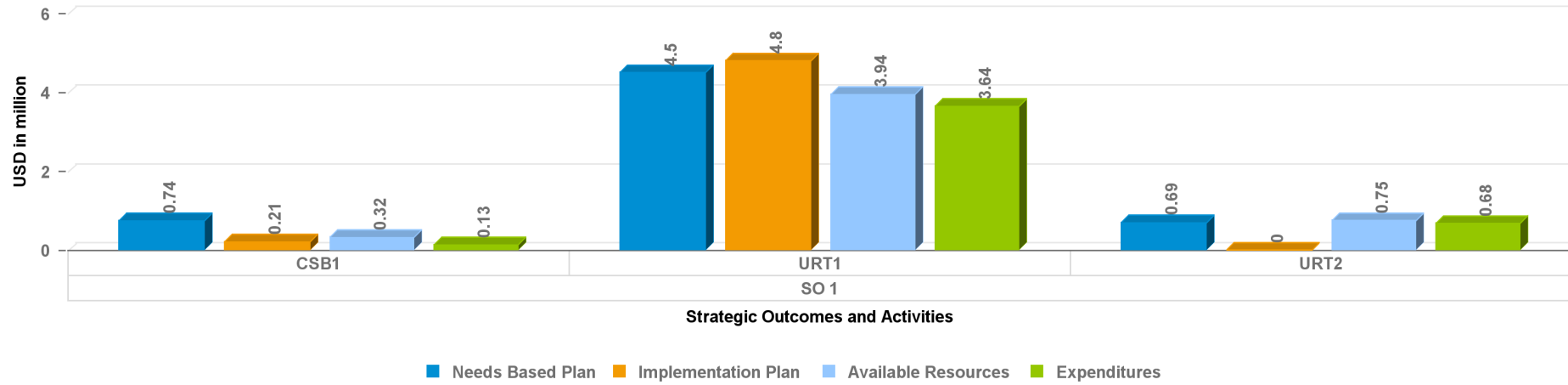
<https://www.wfp.org/countries/iran-islamic-republic>

Annual Country Report

Iran Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2018-2020)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Annual CPB Overview



Code	Strategic Outcome
SO 1	Food insecure refugees and other crisis-affected populations in Iran are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year
Code	Country Activity Long Description
CSB1	Provide conditional support to refugees, especially to women and girls, to incentivise and facilitate educational and livelihood activities.
URT1	Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees
URT2	Provide emergency food assistance through cash-based or in-kind transfers to shock affected populations

Annual Country Report

Iran Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2018-2020)

Annual Financial Overview for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Implementation Plan	Available Resources	Expenditures
1	Food insecure refugees and other crisis-affected populations in Iran are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year	Provide conditional support to refugees, especially to women and girls, to incentivise and facilitate educational and livelihood activities.	739,044	205,954	322,187	131,527
		Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees	4,498,587	4,796,728	3,944,996	3,642,531
		Provide emergency food assistance through cash-based or in-kind transfers to shock affected populations	689,681	0	746,519	676,196
		Non Activity Specific	0	0	279,171	0
Subtotal Strategic Result 1. Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)			5,927,312	5,002,682	5,292,873	4,450,254
	Non SO Specific	Non Activity Specific	0	0	124,601	0
Subtotal Strategic Result			0	0	124,601	0
Total Direct Operational Cost			5,927,312	5,002,682	5,417,474	4,450,254
Direct Support Cost (DSC)			596,507	528,825	545,240	498,399
Total Direct Costs			6,523,819	5,531,507	5,962,714	4,948,653
Indirect Support Cost (ISC)			424,048	359,548	297,888	297,888
Grand Total			6,947,867	5,891,055	6,260,601	5,246,540



Brian Ah Poe
Chief

Columns Definition

Needs Based Plan

Latest annual approved version of operational needs as of December of the reporting year. WFP's needs-based plans constitute an appeal for resources to implement operations which are designed based on needs assessments undertaken in collaboration with government counterparts and partners

Implementation Plan

Implementation Plan as of January of the reporting period which represents original operational prioritized needs taking into account funding forecasts of available resources and operational challenges

Available Resources

Unspent Balance of Resources carried forward, Allocated contribution in the current year, Advances and Other resources in the current year. It excludes contributions that are stipulated by donor for use in future years

Expenditures

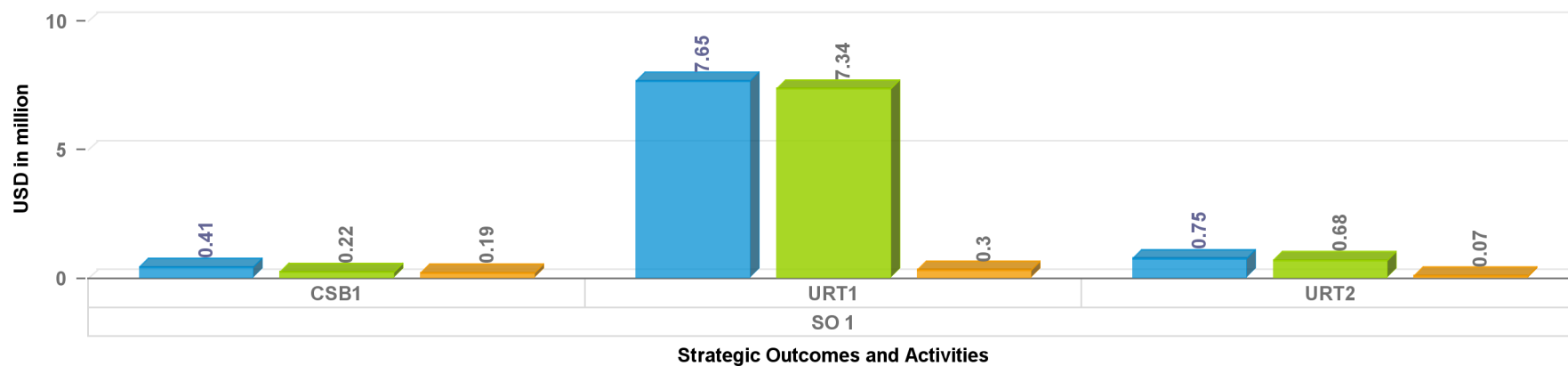
Monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting year

Annual Country Report

Iran Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2018-2020)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Cumulative CPB Overview



■ Allocated Resources ■ Expenditures ■ Balance of Resources

Code	Strategic Outcome
SO 1	Food insecure refugees and other crisis-affected populations in Iran are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year
Code	Country Activity - Long Description
CSB1	Provide conditional support to refugees, especially to women and girls, to incentivise and facilitate educational and livelihood activities.
URT1	Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees
URT2	Provide emergency food assistance through cash-based or in-kind transfers to shock affected populations

Annual Country Report

Iran Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2018-2020)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
1	Food insecure refugees and other crisis-affected populations in Iran are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year	Provide conditional support to refugees, especially to women and girls, to incentivise and facilitate educational and livelihood activities.	956,831	411,832	0	411,832	221,172	190,660
		Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees	9,384,016	7,645,686	0	7,645,686	7,343,220	302,465
		Provide emergency food assistance through cash-based or in-kind transfers to shock affected populations	689,681	416,186	330,333	746,519	676,196	70,323
		Non Activity Specific	0	279,171	0	279,171	0	279,171
Subtotal Strategic Result 1. Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)			11,030,528	8,752,875	330,333	9,083,208	8,240,588	842,620
	Non SO Specific	Non Activity Specific	0	124,601	0	124,601	0	124,601
Subtotal Strategic Result			0	124,601	0	124,601	0	124,601

Annual Country Report

Iran Country Portfolio Budget 2019 (2018-2020)

Cumulative Financial Overview as at 31 December 2019 (Amount in USD)

Strategic Result	Strategic Outcome	Activity	Needs Based Plan	Allocated Contributions	Advance and Allocation	Allocated Resources	Expenditures	Balance of Resources
			11,030,528	8,877,475	330,333	9,207,808	8,240,588	967,220
			1,024,290	877,060	1,147	878,207	831,366	46,841
			12,054,818	9,754,535	331,480	10,086,015	9,071,954	1,014,061
			783,563	622,886		622,886	622,886	0
			12,838,381	10,377,421	331,480	10,708,901	9,694,840	1,014,061

This donor financial report is interim



Brian Ah Poe
Chief

Contribution Accounting and Donor Financial Reporting Branch

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Columns Definition

Needs Based Plan

Latest approved version of operational needs. WFP's needs-based plans constitute an appeal for resources to implement operations which are designed based on needs assessments undertaken in collaboration with government counterparts and partners

Allocated Contributions

Allocated contributions include confirmed contributions with exchange rate variations, multilateral contributions, miscellaneous income, resource transferred, cost recovery and other financial adjustments (e.g. refinancing). It excludes internal advance and allocation and contributions that are stipulated by donor for use in future years.

Advance and allocation

Internal advanced/allocated resources but not repaid. This includes different types of internal advance (Internal Project Lending or Macro-advance Financing) and allocation (Immediate Response Account)

Allocated Resources

Sum of Allocated Contributions, Advance and Allocation

Expenditures

Cumulative monetary value of goods and services received and recorded within the reporting period

Balance of Resources

Allocated Resources minus Expenditures