



In Numbers

29,346 people assisted
in April 2020



289.9 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 213,351 distributed through cash-based transfers

USD 50,000 six-months net funding requirements
(June – November 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)

Operational Updates

- In April, WFP successfully reached 29,346 refugees as per target, of whom 8,217 were women, 8,217 men, 6,163 girls, and 6,749 boys. The assisted people received a total cash transfer value of USD 213,351 and 289.9 MT of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil.
- General food distributions in refugee settlements are ongoing with increased health and safety measures due to COVID-19. Cash-based transfers are also operational. Home-schooling rations have been introduced and distributed to 7,000 children and 500 teachers since mid-April due to nation-wide school closures.
- WFP Iran published educational pamphlets on COVID-19. The information material will be dispatched alongside with locally purchased hand sanitizer and soap for 31,000 refugees residing in all settlements.
- By providing supplementary rations and maintaining monthly assistance to refugees through a combination of cash and food, WFP is reducing the economic impact on beneficiaries caused by negative market developments, such as inflation and rising food prices.
- Following the receipt of USD 7 million from the Government of Japan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, 370,000 N95 masks and 370,000 3-layer surgical masks were handed over to Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS). The second wave of the consignment is expected to arrive to Iran in the coming weeks.
- WFP provided 4,720 family food packages for flood affected population in Sistan and Baluchestan province. These were to be distributed in March, but the distribution was delayed due to COVID-19 and completed in April.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
20 m	21 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June – November 2020)
7.0 m	50,000

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 Refugee Agency (UNHCR) prepared the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report and it will be shared with the Government in the coming days.
- Monitoring of the economic situation in the country indicates that so far there is no shortage of food items during the reporting period. However, in April, the impact of COVID-19 on price level started to loom, mainly on the price of fresh products. Despite a stable monthly inflation rate it reached 2.1 percent, representing a 0.6 percentage point increase in comparison with March. Fruits (including sweet lemon, sour lemon, apple and orange) and vegetables (including, tomato, potato and pulses) recorded the highest price increase, reaching 19 and 14 percent, respectively.

Challenges

- 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.

Donors

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



Photo caption: 31,000 bottles of hand sanitizing liquied and 31,000 bottles of liquid soap are being packed for refugees residing in settlements. Photo: WFP/Neda Mobarra