



WFP Iran Country Brief May 2020

In Numbers

28,954 people assisted
in May 2020



463.8 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 409,358 distributed through cash-based transfers

USD 0 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 May, WFP successfully reached 28,954 refugees as per target, of whom 8,107 were women, 8,107 men, 6,080 girls, and 6,660 boys. The assisted people received a total cash transfer value of USD 409,358 and 400.4 MT of fortified wheat flour, vegetable oil and lentils.
- General food distributions in refugee settlements are ongoing with increased health and safety measures due to COVID-19. Cash-based transfers are also operational. 63.4 MT of home-schooling rations including UHT milk, biscuits, date bars and seed kernels have been distributed to 7,000 children and 500 teachers as 'home schooling snacks' since mid-April due to nation-wide school closures.
- 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, 739,000 N95 masks and 739,000 3-layer surgical masks arrived to Iran in coordination with UNHCR and will be handed over to Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) in the coming weeks.

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	-

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 Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) report for the recent distribution round which was shared with the Government.
- Monitoring of the economic situation during the reporting period in the country indicates that so far there is no shortage of food items.

Challenges

- The country office is monitoring the development of the COVID-19 pandemic closely and is in consultation with the Government partners for further possible assistance to refugees and the Iranian community. To minimize the health risks to 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 liquid and 31,000 bottles of liquid soap are being packed for refugees residing in settlements. Photo: WFP/Neda Mobarra