



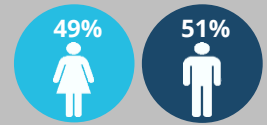
SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Iran Country Brief July 2020

## In Numbers

28,911 people assisted  
in July 2020



359 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 202,547 distributed through cash-based transfers

USD 500,000 six-months net funding requirements  
(September 2020 – February 2021)

## 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 July, WFP successfully reached 28,911 refugees as per target, of whom 8,095 were women, 8,095 men, 6,071 girls, and 6,650 boys. The assisted people received a total cash transfer value of USD 202,547 and 359 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.
- 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.
- Despite the precautionary measures, Bardsir, Mohajerin, Torbat e Jam, Ziveh, Dilzeh and Bezileh settlements have now recorded COVID-19 cases among the refugee inhabitants. The Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) requested WFP's assistance to mitigate the impact of the subsequent lockdown of the camps by providing additional cash assistance to all refugees in these settlements. WFP accordingly has now provided an additional USD 5 per inhabitants in the affected camps.
- 32,100 reusable and washable nano masks have been produced at Sarvestan settlement which is a WFP supported tailoring workshop. The masks were produced in two sizes for adults and kids. To reduce the threat of COVID-19 infections, these masks were distributed among all settlement inhabitants and BAFIA personnel.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
25 m	21 m
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2020 – February 2021)
12 m	500,000

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

- Monitoring of the economic situation in the country indicated no shortage of food items during the reporting period. However, the impact of COVID-19 on price levels for fresh food products started to be felt. Fruits (including sweet lemon, sour lemon, apples and oranges) and vegetables (tomatoes and potatoes) as well as pulses have recorded price increases.

Challenges

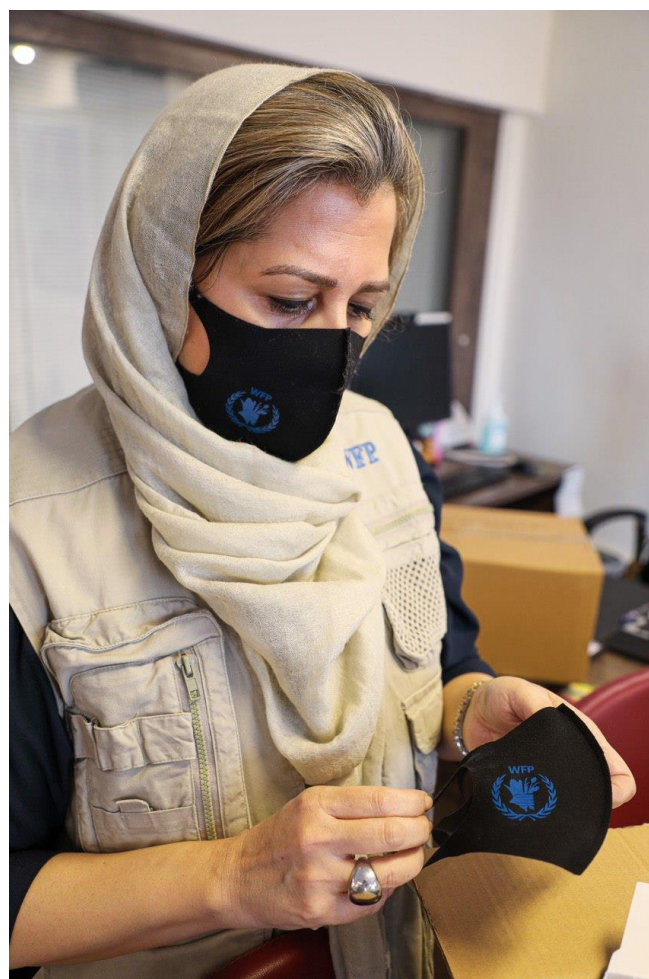
- The country office is monitoring the development of the of the COVID-19 pandemic closely and is in consultation with the Government partners for further possible assistance to refugees and the Iranian community. With strict travel and settlement access restrictions in place, WFP has had to resort to remote monitoring activities.
- To minimize the health risk of WFP staff, a work from home modality is in place at the WFP country office in Tehran. Only a limited number of staff (maximum 20 percent on any given day) go into the office for limited hours, if needed. Returns to the office are being assessed on a regular basis.

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.
- WFP has a long-standing partnership with UNHCR, given the nature of WFP operation in Iran in refugee settlements. In this context, Joint Assessment Missions (JAM), joint distribution and joint post-distribution monitoring take place regularly.

Donors

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



**Photo caption:** Nano masks were prepared in two sizes (small & large) to serve under 12 and over 12 years old people all holding WFP logo. Photo: WFP/Neda Mobarra