



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Iran Country Brief August 2020

## In Numbers

**28,807 people assisted**  
in August 2020



**333 MT** of food assistance distributed

**USD 155,263** distributed through cash-based transfers

**USD 0** six-months net funding requirements (October 2020 – March 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 August, WFP successfully reached 28,807 refugees as per target, of whom 8,066 were women, 8,066 men, 6,049 girls, and 6,626 boys. The assisted people received a total cash transfer value of USD 155,263 and 333 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 precautionary measures, Saveh settlement in Markazi Province, about 100 km southwest of Tehran, 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 lock-down of the camp by providing additional cash assistance to all 5,016 refugees in the settlement. WFP provided an additional USD 5 per inhabitant in the settlement for the month of August.
- The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) requested WFP to purchase 1 million 3-layer masks. These were purchased locally using savings accrued from local currency devaluation on the contribution from the Government of Japan. WFP in Iran purchased a total of 1,061,665 three-layer surgical masks locally in August.

## Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>25 m</b>	<b>21 m</b>
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (October 2020 – March 2021)
<b>12 m</b>	<b>0</b>

### 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

- Remote monitoring calls are ongoing. Every month 2.5 percent of refugee households are selected randomly and contacted via phone. During the calls personal and household information is confirmed and refugees are asked whether they have received their monthly cash & food entitlements. Furthermore, quality and quantity of assistance received also verified.

## 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 produced in two sizes (small & large) for people under 12 and over 12 years of age. All masks include the WFP logo. Photo: WFP Iran