



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Iran Country Brief September 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**

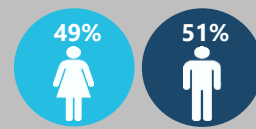
2018 Human Development Index:
65 out of 188

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2018 Global Hunger Index:
31 out of 117 (7.9, Low)

In Numbers

28,793 people assisted
in September 2020



344 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 128,007 distributed through cash-based transfers

USD 0 six-months net funding requirements
(November 2020 – April 2021)

Operational Updates

- In September, WFP successfully reached 28,793 refugees as per target, of whom 8,062 were women, 8,062 men, 6,047 girls, and 6,622 boys. The assisted people received a total cash transfer value of USD 128,007 and 344 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.
- Following the re-opening of schools throughout Iran on 22 September, WFP is to resume with the provision of school snacks for the schools located in refugee settlements. As per the initial plan, WFP is distributing school feeding items to 7,000 students at primary and junior high school levels who study at schools inside the settlements, as well as to 500 teachers.

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Photo caption: All refugees residing in settlements are observing health protocols such as wearing masks and physical distancing. Photo: WFP Iran

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)		Allocated Contributions (in USD)
25 m		21 m
2020 Requirements	2021 Requirements	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (November 2020 – April 2021)
12 m	0	0

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

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



Photo caption: Refugee woman working in the greenhouse established by WFP and FAO in Mohajerin settlement in Semnan province. Photo: WFP Iran