



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iran Country Brief November 2020

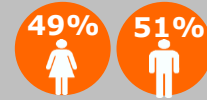
In Numbers

235.2 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 105,324 distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$0 m six months net funding requirements (January – June 2021)

29,057 people assisted in November 2020



WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

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.

WFP Iran works under its [Interim Country Strategic Plan \(2018-2020\)](#) extended until 2022 to align it with both the United Nations development assistance framework (2017–2021) which will be extended for one additional year and the National Development Plan (2016–2022). WFP assists 31,000 beneficiaries yearly through unconditional food assistance in addition to the provision of a girls' education cash incentive, and a school feeding initiative consisting of nutritious school snacks.

Moreover, 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.



Operational Updates

- In November, WFP successfully reached 29,057 refugees as per target, of whom 8,145 were women, 8,334 men, 6,003 girls, and 6,575 boys. The assisted people received a total cash transfer value of USD 105,324 and 235.2 MT of fortified wheat flour, vegetable oil, lentils, biscuits, date bar, nuts and milk.
- 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.
- Millions of Iranians are affected by COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters. Following a request from the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), WFP Iran delivered mixed commodities in the form of more than 15,000 family emergency food packages that catered to the food and nutritional needs of at least 62,000 people for one month in five provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan, Khuzestan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Ilam and Lorestan.

Population: **83 million**

2019 Human Development Index:
70 out of 189

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2020 Global Hunger Index:
39 out of 107 (7.9, Low)

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Photo Caption: Packing of emergency family food packages for distribution. Photo: WFP/Neda Mobarra

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2021)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
34 m	22 m
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (January – June 2021)
5 m	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

- 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. With strict travel and settlement access restrictions in place, WFP has had to resort to remote monitoring activities.
- 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

- 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: Packing of emergency family food packages for distribution. Photo: WFP/Neda Mobarra