



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iran Country Brief December 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.

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.



Population: **83 million**

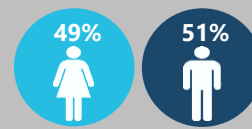
2019 Human Development Index:
70 out of 188

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers

29,446 people assisted
in December 2020



536.9 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 122,354 distributed through cash-based transfers

USD 1 million six-months net funding requirements (February - July 2021)

Operational Updates

- In December, WFP successfully reached 28,896 refugees as per target, of whom 8,091 were women, 8,091 men, 6,068 girls, and 6,646 boys. The assisted people received a total cash transfer value of USD 122,354 and 536.9 mt of fortified wheat flour, vegetable oil, lentils, biscuits, date bars, 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 the 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.
- WFP provided 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 550 teachers.
- WFP distributed 39,000 nano masks (in small and large sizes) produced by Sarvestan tailoring workshop to refugees inside settlements, settlement authorities, provincial & central Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs staff.
- For the second time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP procured 23,000 3-layer masks, 16,200 gloves and 270 bottle of hand sanitizers for warehouse personnel responsible for food distribution in 20 settlements.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
34 m	22 m
2021 Requirements	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2021)
5 m	1 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, the quality and quantity of assistance received are 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 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: WFP provided personal protection equipment for warehouse personnel responsible for food distribution in 20 settlement. Photo: WFP Iran