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 February, WFP successfully reached 29,014 refugees as per the target, of whom 8,285 were women, 8,500 men, 6,093 girls, and 6,673 boys (these figures include 537 Iranian teachers who receive WFP school snacks). The assisted people received a total cash transfer value of USD 130,108 and 463.4 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.

- As per previous months since April 2020, all refugees received a double cash entitlement.

- By providing supplementary rations and maintaining monthly assistance to the refugees through a combination of cash and food, WFP is reducing the economic impact of the pandemic on beneficiaries caused by negative market developments, such as inflation and rising food prices.

- Due to COVID-19 situation, schools are continuing their work either online or in person depending on the situation in their provinces. School snacks distribution is being continued either on-site for those who have routine classes or as take-home ration for those who receive online training.
• WFP held joint missions 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.

### Monitoring

- WFP Iran conducted the sixth joint Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) in 2020 with UNHCR to collect data on food security and livelihood of refugees. This year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and transportation restrictions in the country, the field visits could not be conducted physically. In coordination with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA), it was agreed to conduct monitoring remotely through phone calls with beneficiary households. The report has been finalized and is in the translation process.

### Challenges

- To minimize the health risk for 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 to 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 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.

### Tabular Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34 m</td>
<td>22 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April – September 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 m</td>
<td>0.3 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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

**Photo caption:** 7,500 refugee boys and girls receive WFP school snacks in 20 settlement in Iran.

Photo: WFP/Neda Mobarre