

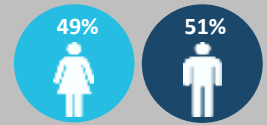


SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Iran Country Brief April 2021

In Numbers



29,261 people assisted
in April 2021

359.8 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 1.6 million six-months net funding requirements
(June - November 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.

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 April, WFP successfully reached 29,261 refugees as per the target, of whom 8,198 were women, 8,303 men, 6,090 girls, and 6,670 boys (these figures include 263 Iranian teachers who receive WFP school snacks). People were assisted with 359.8 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 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.
- Due to the COVID-19 situation, schools are continuing their work either online or in person depending on the situation in the provinces where they are located. 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.

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)

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Photo caption: Refugee woman working in a tailoring workshop equipped by WFP in Semnan settlement.
Photo: Neda Mobarra

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
34 m	23 m
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June - November 2021)
5 m	1.6 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

- WFP CO conducted the sixth joint Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) in 2020 with UNHCR to collect data on food security and livelihood of refugees. The result of the report shows food consumption level have improved overall compared to 2019 findings, with the proportion of households with borderline consumption level increasing from 17 percent in 2019 to 20 percent in 2020. Food consumption level of households with poor consumption level decreased while status of households with acceptable food consumption level remained unchanged at 77 percent.
- As for the overall preference of modality amongst interviewed beneficiaries in 2020, the majority continues to prefer a mix of in-kind and cash as their assistance modality of choice, followed by preference for cash while receiving in-kind only is the least preference. Higher preference for mix modality of cash & in-kind can be the result of reintroducing vegetable oil to the food basket as of mid-2019 and addition of lentils due to COVID-19 in 2020.

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 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 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 equipped nine tailoring workshops for refugees inside settlements as part of its livelihood project creating job opportunities for more than 200 refugees. Photo: WFP/Neda Mobarra