In Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People assisted in April 2021</td>
<td>29,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT of food assistance distributed</td>
<td>359.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>USD six-months net funding requirements (June - November 2021)</td>
<td>1.6 million</td>
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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.
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.

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.

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