In Numbers

- **30,009 people assisted** in May 2021
- **393.5 MT of food assistance distributed**
- **USD 133,056** distributed through cash-based transfers
- **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 May, WFP successfully reached 30,009 refugees as per the target, of whom 8,413 were women, 8,628 men, 6,189 girls, and 6,779 boys (these figures include 537 Iranian teachers who receive WFP school snacks). The assisted people received 393.5 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 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 welcomed a generous contribution of EUR 1.7 million from the Federal Republic of Germany for its assistance programme in the Islamic Republic of Iran. This contribution will benefit Afghan and Iraqi refugees living in settlements in Iran.

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Photo caption: The cash transfers from WFP, enhances the effectiveness and efficiency of its assistance and provide refugees with an opportunity to diversify their dietary intake and exercise freedom of choice for the composition of their food basket. Photo: WFP Iran
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>34 m</td>
<td>23 m</td>
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<tr>
<th>2021 Requirements</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (June - November 2021)</th>
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<tr>
<td>5 m</td>
<td>1.6 m</td>
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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

- 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 is 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 to the office if needed. Return to the office is 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.

- 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: The monthly cash assistance from WFP enhances the refugees’ purchasing power which in turn boosts the economy of the settlements as majority of the shops where they source their food, are run by the refugees themselves.

Photo: WFP Iran