



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Iran Country Brief June 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.



Population: **83 million**

2020 Human Development Index:
70 out of 188

Income Level: **Upper middle**

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

In Numbers

30,191 people assisted
in June 2021



417.7 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 140,628 distributed through cash-based transfers

0.9 USD million six-months net funding requirements (July-December 2021)

Operational Updates

- In June, WFP successfully reached 30,191 refugees as per the target, of whom 8,464 were women, 8,679 men, 6,227 girls, and 6,821 boys (these figures include 537 Iranian teachers who receive WFP school snacks). The assisted people received 417.7 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.

Photo caption WFP identified 9 settlements that had good potentials for establishing tailoring workshops, as a suitable income generating enterprise capable of capacity strengthening. Photo: WFP Iran

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
34 m	23 m
2021 Requirements	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July-December 2021)
5 m	0.9 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

- 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 are also verified.
- Monitoring oversight mission is planned for September to review the Monitoring & Evaluation activities. The mission will help identify gaps, obstacles and will assist WFP to boost its operational capacity and efficiencies.

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 30 percent on any given day) go to the office 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.

- 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: A refugee woman working in Semnan tailoring workshop

Photo: WFP Iran