In Numbers

- 29,839 people assisted in July 2021
- 239 MT of food assistance distributed
- USD 129,690 distributed through cash-based transfers
- 0 USD million six-months net funding requirements (August 2021 – January 2022)

Operational Updates

- In July, WFP successfully reached 29,839 refugees as per the target, of whom 8,355 were women, 8,355 men, 6,266 girls, and 6,863 boys. The assisted people received 239 MT of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil.

- 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.

- During summer holidays (July-September), distribution of school snacks and cash incentive for refugee girls cease will cease and should resume in the new school year.

- Following a request received from the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), WFP Iran is planning to support 3,300 Iranian households affected by drought and COVID-19 pandemic in the four provinces of Sistan & Balouchestan, South Khorasan, Kerman and Hormozgan with Family Food Rations. The country office is in the process of procuring the items.

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.

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Photo caption: WFP Iran distributes fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil to 31,000 refugees residing in 20 settlements every month. Photo: WFP Iran
**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.

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**WFP Country Strategy**

**Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Total Received (in USD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34 m</td>
<td>23 m</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (August 2021–January 2022)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 m</td>
<td>0 m</td>
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</tbody>
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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 also verified.

- The Mid-Term Review’s term of reference was finalized, translated, and shared with BAFIA in July. The data collection and analysis phase are planned to be conducted from 8-12 August led by the Regional Bureau’s Monitoring and Evaluation team. This review will focus on results, monitoring, design, and implementation related aspects to determine whether WFP has been successful in moving towards achieving the results outlined in the ICSP, and how the implementation of activities has contributed towards achieving these results.

**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.

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**Photo caption:** 31,000 vulnerable refugees living inside 20 settlements receive WFP’s cash and in-kind assistance every month. Photo: WFP/Salman Bahrami