



SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Iran Country Brief August 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 aiming to provide 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.



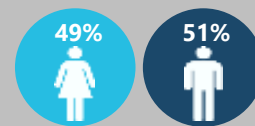
Population: **83 million**

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



30,150 people assisted
in August 2021

297.116 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 128,617 distributed through cash-based transfers

0 USD million six-months net funding requirements
(September 2021 – February 2022)

Operational Updates

- In August, WFP successfully reached 30,150 refugees as per the target, of whom 8,442 were women, 8,442 men, 6,332 girls, and 6,934 boys. The assisted people received 297.116 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.
- Distribution of school snacks and cash incentive for refugee girls is suspended during the summer holidays (July- September).
- Following a request received from the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), WFP Iran procured 99.66 MT of Family Food Packages for 13,752 Iranians affected by COVID-19 for one month in Iranshahr and Zabol of Sistan & Baluchestan provinces.
- Following the recent developments in Afghanistan and foreseeable refugee influx, WFP immediately procured 3,000 cans of pinto beans and 6,000 packs of biscuits from the local market and delivered them to Niatak camp in Sistan & Balouchestan province to serve the new arrivals with ready-to-eat food during their first six days. WFP also procured and will preposition 6,000 cans of pinto beans and 6,000 packs of biscuits to cover the requirements of 1,000 new potential arrivals.

Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

| Total Requirements (in USD) | Total Received (in USD) |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 34 m | 23 m |
| 2021 Requirements | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (September 2021 – February 2022) |
| 5 m | 0 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 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 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: WFP will distribute the Family Food Packages in Zabol and Iranshahr of Sistan & Baluchestan Provinces. Photo: WFP/Neda Mobarra