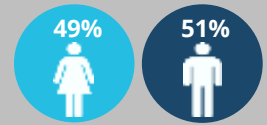




SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Iran Country Brief October 2021

In Numbers



30,651 people assisted
in October 2021

431 MT of food assistance distributed

USD 115,173 distributed through cash-based transfers

0 USD million six-months net funding requirements (November 2021 – April 2022)

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)

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP successfully reached 30,651 refugees as per the target, of whom 8,592 were women, 8,780 men, 6,338 girls, and 6,941 boys. The assisted people received 431.266 MT of fortified wheat flour, Lentils, vegetable oil, date-bar, milk and digestive biscuits.
- Following the recent developments in Afghanistan and foreseeable refugee influx, WFP is providing newly arrived Afghans with ready-to-eat and easy-to-distribute food rations consisting of one can of pinto beans (380g) and two packets of biscuits (400g).
- To this date, WFP procured and delivered 150,000 packets of biscuits and 75,000 canned pinto beans from the local market which catered to the immediate food and nutritional needs of 12,500 Afghans for six days in Niatak, Fariman, Dogharoon, Birjand and Zahedan.
- WFP procured and prepositioned dry food rations to cater for the food needs of the potential arrival of additional 10,000 Afghans for three months. Upon Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (BAFIA)'s request, these rations were dispatched to three warehouses managed by BAFIA in the three border regions of Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan and Sistan-Baluchistan. Monthly dry food rations consist of wheat flour, lentils, vegetable oil, sugar and iodized salt. The planned food basket is enough to stabilize and preserve refugees' nutritional status in the longer-term, pending durable solutions.

Photo caption: WFP Iran distributes fortified wheat flour, Lentils, vegetable oil, date-bar, milk and digestive biscuits in 20 settlements for 31,000 refugees.

Photo: WFP/Dara Darbandi

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Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/iran

Iran Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)		Total Received (in US\$)
34 m		26 m
2021 Requirement	2022 Requirements	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2021- April 2022)
5 m	4.3 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.
- WFP Iran’s internal audit is ongoing. The field work of auditors commenced as of 24 October for two weeks in person. During the field work, the auditors visited Semnan settlement and had different meetings with WFP donors and stakeholders. The audit will cover the period of 1 January 2020 to 31 July 2021 and focuses on five key areas of the end-to-end country office delivery process: beneficiary management, cash-based transfers, supply chain, finance and monitoring.

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: Since bread is a vital element of refugees' food basket, WFP Iran distributes fortified wheat flour in 20 settlements for 31,000 refugees (9kg per person) so that they can bake their own bread.

Photo: WFP / Dara Darbandi