

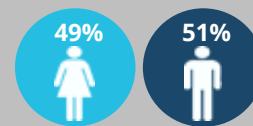


SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



WFP Iran Country Brief November 2021

In Numbers



30,977 people assisted
in November 2021

391.5 MT of food assistance distributed

US \$123,262 distributed through cash-based transfers

0 USD million six-months net funding requirements (December 2021 – May 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 November, WFP successfully reached 30,977 refugees as per the target, of whom 8,686 were women, 8,929 men, 6,377 girls, and 6,985 boys. The assisted people received 391.5 MT of fortified wheat flour, Lentils, vegetable oil, date-bar, milk and digestive biscuits.
- Due to the COVID-19 situation, schools are continuing their work either online or in person depending on the situation in their provinces. School snacks distribution continues either on-site for those who have in-person classes or as take-home rations for those who receive online training.
- As part of WFP Iran efforts to promote education for refugee girls through providing them with cash incentives for each month of regular attendance in school, 2,403 refugee girls received cash in their bank accounts in November.
- 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.
- Following the recent developments in Afghanistan and foreseeable refugee influx, WFP prepositioned ready-to-eat and easy-to-distribute food rations consisting of one can of pinto beans (380g) and two packets of biscuits (400g) for 7,650 potential newly arrived Afghans.

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Photo caption: During the post-distribution monitoring mission, WFP staff visited the food warehouses located inside settlements.
Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra

Iran Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

Total Requirements (in US\$)		Total Received (in US\$)
34 m		27 m
2021 Requirement	2022 Requirements	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (December 2021- May 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 are also verified.
- WFP Iran conducted the seventh joint Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) with UNHCR to collect data on the food security and livelihood of refugees. The mission was conducted from 13 to 25 November. Visits were undertaken in seven large settlements in Saveh, Semnan, Ardakan, Rafsanjan, Bardsir, Bani Najjar, and Torbat e Jam of Markazi, Semnan, Yazd, Kerman, Ahvaz and Khorasan e-Razavi provinces and 355 questionnaires were collected by WFP enumerators to be analyzed and used for reporting. All the health protocols were observed during the mission.

Challenges

- To minimize the health risk of WFP staff, a work from home modality is in place at the country office in Tehran. As more than 70 percent of the population

has been vaccinated against COVID-19, a maximum of 75 percent of staff presence has been allowed at the office on any given day.

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 staff visited seven large settlements and interviewed refugees to collect data on their food security and livelihood. Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra