



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Iran response to Afghanistan crisis

Over the course of 2021, there has been a sharp deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan. A humanitarian crisis of incredible proportions has grown even more complex and severe since the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021, following the United States' decision to withdraw its troops from the country. Due to job losses, lack of cash availability and soaring prices, Afghanistan is facing an economic crisis of unprecedented proportions and food security situation inside the country has deteriorated sharply. Only 5 percent of

households consume enough food, and 3-in-4 families are reducing portion sizes or borrowing food, according to WFP's latest surveys conducted in September 2021. According to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report issued on 25 October by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster of Afghanistan, co-led by FAO and WFP, more than half the population of Afghanistan – a record 22.8 million people - will face acute food insecurity from November.

From 1 January to 27 November 2021, UNHCR identified 23,964 Afghans who newly arrived in Iran. However, the real number of new arrivals is likely to be much higher as the majority of Afghans are believed to cross into Iran through unofficial channels. According to the trend of internal displacement in Afghanistan and the scale of new arrivals of Afghans in Iran throughout 2021 as well as the projections of new possible arrivals throughout 2022, it is to be expected that tens of thousands of newly arrived food insecure Afghans in Iran will need life-saving food assistance throughout 2022. The expected significant number of newly arrived food insecure Afghans will add to an already existing caseload of Afghan refugees who have been generously hosted in Iran for over 40 years.

WFP together with other UN agencies and INGOs has been preparing to respond to an influx of up to 150,000 persons in the coming months.

WFP Response

WFP has strengthened its Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) mechanism for a potential mass influx of Afghan refugees into Iran since April 2021. As a result of these efforts, a contingency planning exercise was conducted and human and financial resources were identified and prepositioned, with support from WFP's Regional Bureau in Cairo.

WFP developed a dedicated Concept of

Operations (ConOps) to prepare and respond to an expected Afghan refugee crisis. Moreover, following the formal establishment of UNHCR-led Refugee Coordination Module (RCM) and the launching of the Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan (RPRP), WFP brought into the country additional surge emergency coordination and logistics and supply chain capacities through support provided by its Regional Bureau in Cairo.

WFP's intervention is focused on three main areas:

- Meet the food and nutrition needs of newly arrived Afghan refugees in Iran.
- Contribute to the inter-agency coordination mechanism that has been established as part of UNHCR-led refugee Coordination Module (RCM) by leading two key sectors, namely the Food Security sector and the Logistics and Emergency Telecommunication sector, as well as actively contributing to the work of other sectorial and inter-sectorial fora.
- Enhance WFP's supply corridor into western Afghanistan, if needed.

WFP's food assistance approach is fully integrated into the Government and UNHCR's envisaged inter-agency Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan for Afghan refugees in Iran.



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* Milak / Nimroz (Zaranj) border crossing opens for short periods only.

Zoom-in on WFP's Food Assistance

The proposed food assistance approach is organized around two main “phases” of displacement: 1) “Arrival”; and 2) “Settled” phases.

Arrival Phase:

WFP is providing newly arrived Afghans with ready-to-eat (RTE) and easy-to-distribute food rations consisting of 1 can of pinto beans (380g) and 2 packets of whole-meal biscuits (400g). This is sufficient to address the food needs and stabilize the nutritional condition of any new arrivals until the time they are transferred to longer-term hosting

settings such as camps/ settlements and/or urban settings that will be made available by the Government of Iran for newly arrived Afghans.

To this date, WFP has locally procured and delivered these ready to eat food rations catering to the immediate food and nutritional needs of more than 20,000 persons for six days.

20,000 People provided two packs of biscuits and one can of pinto bean for six days



In Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan and Sistan & Baluchestan are hosting the new arrivals.

Settled Phase

It is expected that newly arrived Afghans, after going through reception/transit centres that are being established in border areas, will be subsequently transported to longer-term hosting settings, including a network of newly constructed settlements.

Once cooking means are made available to the refugees in longer term settings, WFP can provide newly arrived Afghans with monthly dry food rations consisting of wheat flour, lentils, vegetable oil, sugar and iodized salt. The emergency food basket is enough to stabilize and preserve refugees' nutritional status in the longer-term, pending durable solutions.

To date, WFP has prepositioned dry food rations to cater to the food needs of at least 10,000 people for three months. These rations have been dispatched to three warehouses managed by the Bureau for Alien and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) in the three border regions of Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan and Sistan-Baluchistan.

Partners

WFP coordinates its activities and interventions closely with the Government of Iran, in particular BAFIA.

At the UN level, WFP works closely with UNHCR and other relevant partners, especially within the Food Security,

Logistics and Emergency Telecommunications, Health and Nutrition, and Education and Livelihoods sectors.

Donors

WFP's total funding requirements to respond to this crisis until the end of 2022 currently stands at approximately \$13,000,000 out of which WFP Iran has secured **US \$1,383,126** to date.

Currently WFP is negotiating with different donors to mobilize the required funds for the response to current and expected needs of newly arrived Afghan refugees.

**150,000
People**



**Might cross the border
if the situation worsen
in Afghanistan**



US \$13,000,000

Communication unit

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