



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## WFP Iran Country Brief March 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 end of 2022 to align it with both the United Nations development assistance framework (2017-2021), which has been extended for one additional year, and the National Development Plan (2016-2022). The New ICSP for 2023-2025 is also under development. 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



**31,074 people assisted**  
in March 2022

**376.7 MT** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 134,674** distributed through cash-based transfers

**0 USD million** six-months net funding requirements (April 2022 – September 2022)

### Operational Updates

- In March, WFP successfully reached 31,074 refugees as per the target, of whom 8,713 were women, 8,964 men, 6,394 girls, and 7,003 boys. The assisted people received 376.7 mt of fortified wheat flour, lentils, vegetable oil, date bars, 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 respective provinces. School snacks distribution continued during the month of March amongst 7,973 refugee students.
- As part of WFP Iran efforts to promote education for refugee girls through providing them with cash incentives of Iranian Rials (IRR) 500,000 (USD 2) for each month of regular attendance in school, 2,799 refugee girls received cash in their bank accounts in March.
- To overcome the inflation rate, the students' incentive was increased from IRR 300,000 (USD 1.1) to IRR 500,000 (USD 2) as of February 2022.
- By providing supplementary rations and maintaining monthly assistance to the refugees through a combination of cash and food, WFP is reducing the economic impact caused by the pandemic, such as surging inflation and rising food prices, on refugees.
- General food distributions in refugee settlements are ongoing with increased health and safety measures due to COVID-19. Cash-based transfers are also operational.

## Iran Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

| Total Requirements (in US\$) | Total Received (in US\$)                                                  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>35 m</b>                  | <b>28 m</b>                                                               |
| 2022 Requirements (in US\$)  | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (April 2022- September 2022) |
| <b>5 m</b>                   | <b>0 m</b>                                                                |

## 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

[WFP Iran 2021 Annual Country Report](#) **New**

## 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 and food entitlements. Furthermore, quality and quantity of assistance received are also verified.

## 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 Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (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 the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), given the nature of WFP operations 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, United Kingdom, multilateral funds, and private donors.



Refugees receive their monthly wheat flour allocation to bake bread which is a really important component for Afghan families. Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra