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 the 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 and should be submitted to WFP Executive Board of February 2023. 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.

Operational Updates
• 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 the pandemic, such as surging inflation and rising food prices.

• In July, WFP successfully reached 31,679 refugees as per the target, of whom 8,870 were women, 8,870 men, 6,653 girls, and 7,286 boys. The assisted refugees received 263 MT of fortified wheat flour and vegetable oil.

• WFP will continue to provide food assistance in the form of dry foods and ready-to-eat meals for the new arrivals from Afghanistan.

• Due to schools’ closure during summer, school feeding and distribution of cash incentives for refugee girls have been suspended till late September.

• On 1 July, WFP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and a UNDP partner, Hyperstar, ran a one-day awareness event on the opening of the United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon in Portugal. Thousands of cotton tote bags were distributed to the customers doing their daily shopping in one of the Hyperstar branches in Tehran, encouraging them to refrain from using plastic bags. The tote bags were produced by Afghan refugees living in a settlement in Iran’s Fars province. The campaign was a good opportunity for the refugees to generate income. The event was launched in line with some of the core messages of the conference to boost collective efforts to effectively address the challenges that our oceans face, and to ensure the protection of the aquatic environments and their resources.

In Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>31,679 people assisted</th>
<th>in July 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>263 MT of food assistance distributed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US$ 114,419 distributed through cash-based transfers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US$ 2.2 m six-months net funding requirements (August 2022 – January 2023)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Country Director: Negar Gerami
Contact info: Dara Darbandi (dara.darbandi@wfp.org)
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/iran

Photo caption: Afghan refugees living in Sarvestan settlement, Fars province, producing the tote bags. Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra
### WFP Country Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iran Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Requirements (in US$)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2022 Requirements (in US$)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.7 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 the 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, the quality and quantity of assistance received are also verified.

- In July, WFP Iran finalized, translated, and shared the process monitoring report with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) following the monitoring visits to seven Iraqi settlements inside the country (Soltanieh, Ziveh, Dilzeh, Bezileh, Songhor, Varmahang, and Abazar) in June. The general findings of the report show that there is a great request for increasing the quantity of both in-kind and cash assistance due to recent considerable inflation in the market.

---

**Partnerships**

- The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and 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, the UN Refugee Agency (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 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, the Republic of Korea, the People’s Republic of China, the United Kingdom, multilateral funds, and private donors.