



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Iran Country Brief August 2022



## In Numbers

**31,257 people assisted**  
in August 2022



**265 MT** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 118,968** distributed through cash-based transfers

**US\$ 2.5 m** six-months net funding requirements  
(September 2022 – February 2023)

## 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 32,000 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. WFP assists 32,000 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 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**

2021 Global Hunger Index:  
**35 out of 116 (7.7, Low)**

## 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 COVID -19 pandemic, such as surging inflation and rising food prices.
- In August, WFP reached 31,257 refugees as per the monthly target under unconditional resource transfers (URT), of whom 8,752 were women, 8,752 men, 6,564 girls, and 7,189 boys. The refugees were assisted with a total of 265 MT of fortified wheat flour (9 kg per person per month) and vegetable oil (900 cc per person per month).
- WFP cash entitlements are transferred at the beginning of each month to the debit cards issued in the names of the refugee heads of household. Households headed by refugee women received Iranian Rials (IRR) 1,200,000 (US\$ 4.5) per person per month and households headed by refugee men received IRR 1,000,000 (US\$ 3.7) per person per month.
- Due to schools' closure during summer, school feeding and distribution of cash incentives for refugee girls have been suspended till the end of September.
- WFP will continue to provide food assistance in the form of dry foods and ready-to-eat meals for the new arrivals from Afghanistan.
- In August, as part of our corporate commitment to our donors, WFP Iran invited H.E. Yun Kang-Hyeon, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea, to the Sarvestan settlement in Fars province. The mission aimed to provide an opportunity for the Ambassador to meet the settlement authorities, interact with refugees, and visit WFP warehouse and livelihood activities to see first-hand the impact of the generous contribution of the Republic of Korea to WFP on the lives and livelihoods of the refugees.

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**Photo caption:** The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea visited WFP's tailoring workshop in Sarvestan, Fars province.  
Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra

**Iran Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)**

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (in US\$)
<b>35 m</b>	<b>30 m</b>
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (September 2022- February 2023)
<b>4.7 m</b>	<b>2.5 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

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Crisis-affected populations in Iran benefit from improved capacities of national entities and other partners to prevent and respond to emergencies

**Focus area:** Partnership

**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
- Activity 3: Provide support to the Government on emergency preparedness and response, including emergency food assistance through cash-based or in-kind transfers to shock affected populations
- Activity 4: Provide cash transfers and other services to Government and other partners

[WFP Iran 2021 Annual Country Report](#)

**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.

**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, 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 Mission (JAM), joint distribution, and joint post-distribution monitoring take place regularly.

**Donors**

Australia, Germany, Japan, The people's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, multilateral funds, and private donors.



**Photo caption:** H.E. Yun Kang-Hyeon, the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea had an opportunity to interact with refugees. Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra