

WFP Iran Country Brief October 2022



Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran, a lower middle-income country with a population of 83 million, is hosting one of the largest and most protracted refugee populations in the world. The Government of Iran has generously hosted approximately 1 million refugees for the past 40 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**

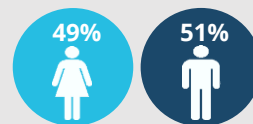
2021 Human Development Index:
76 out of 191

Income Level: **Lower middle**

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

In Numbers

31,273 people assisted
in October 2022



346 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 118,320 distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$ 1.5 m six-months net funding requirements
(November 2022 – April 2023)

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP reached 31,273 beneficiaries including 30,653 refugees and 620 Iranian teachers as per the monthly target under unconditional resource transfers (URT), of whom 8,769 were women, 9,017 men, 6,437 girls, and 7,050 boys. The refugees were assisted with a total of 346 MT of fortified wheat flour (9 kg per person per month) and vegetable oil (900 cc per person per month).
- 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 Ukraine crisis in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as surging inflation and rising food prices.
- 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.
- Following the re-opening of schools, distribution of School Feeding items resumed in October reaching 8,463 students and their teachers.
- Distribution of cash incentives for refugee girls will resume in November due to late school registration.
- WFP will continue to provide food assistance in the form of dry foods and ready-to-eat meals for the new arrivals from Afghanistan.

Iran Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (in US\$)
35 m	32 m
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (November 2022- April 2023)
5 m	1.5 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

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.
- WFP Iran conducted joint Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in October 2022 to collect data on the food security of refugees. For seven small settlements (Dalaki, Jahrom, Sarvestan, Abazar, Ziveh, Mehbod and Taft) data collection was conducted remotely while for seven largest settlements (Rafsanjan, Bardsir, Torbat e Jam, Bani Najar, Saveh, Mohajerin, and Ardakan) it was conducted in-person.

- 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 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: WFP provides fortified wheat flour (9 kg per person per month) to all refugees residing in the 20 settlements of Iran. Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra