



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iran Country Brief November 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.



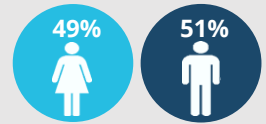
Population: **83 million**

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



32,642 people assisted
in November 2022

347 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 128,762 distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$ 3.2 m six-months net funding requirements
(December 2022 – May 2023)

Operational Updates

- In November, WFP reached 32,642 beneficiaries including 32,107 refugees and 625 Iranian teachers as per the monthly target under unconditional resource transfers (URT), of whom 9,153 were women, 9,402 men, 6,723 girls, and 7,364 boys. The refugees were assisted with a total of 347 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.
- After the summer break, distribution of school meals consisting of milk and biscuits resumed in October in all settlements reaching 8,768 students and their teachers.
- In November, WFP provided 2,312 refugee girls with cash incentive of IRR 500,000 (US\$ 2) transferred to their bank accounts. This is a part of WFP Iran's efforts to promote education for refugee girls by providing them with cash for each month of regular school attendance.
- In the summer of 2022, the Norwegian Refugee Council and WFP joined hands to boost the capacity of Bardsir settlement bakery in Kerman with NRC constructing a new building and WFP purchasing new bakery equipment to increase the bakery's production. In November, a delegation, consisting of representatives from Norway, the Republic of Korea,

Photo caption: WFP/NRC joined hands to boost the capacity of Bardsir settlement bakery in Kerman. Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra

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and Japan embassies travelled to Kerman to inaugurate the opening of the bakery.

WFP Country Strategy



Iran Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)		
Total Requirements (in US\$)		Total Received (in US\$)
36 m		32 m
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (December 2022- May 2023)
5 m	12 m	3.2 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.
- The initial findings of the Post Distribution Mission 2022 conducted in October jointly with UNHCR showed an overall deterioration of food consumption levels, compared to 2021. Dietary diversity also decreased from 6.1 in 2021 to 5.7 in 2022 due to the economic

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downturn. In parallel, more households reported using short-term coping strategies, compared to 2021, resorting mainly to “reducing the portion size of meals”, “borrowing food” and reducing food quantities consumed by adults. Around 80 percent of interviewed beneficiaries continued to prefer a mix of in-kind and cash assistance, as in 2021. In-kind only remains the least preferred assistance modality since 2019.

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 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. The picture showcases the Bardsir settlement bakery
Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra