



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Iran Country Brief January 2023



In Numbers

33,387 people assisted
in January 2022



318 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 118,410 distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$ 4.4 m six-months net funding requirements
(February 2023 - July 2023)

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 \(ICSP 2018-2023\)](#) extended until the end of March 2023 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 planned for presentation to WFP Executive Board in February 2023. 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)

Operational Updates

- In January, WFP reached 33,387 beneficiaries including 32,765 refugees and 622 Iranian teachers as per the monthly target under unconditional resource transfers (URT), of whom 9,361 were women, 9,609 men, 6,881 girls, and 7,536 boys. The refugees were assisted with a total of 248 mt of fortified wheat flour (9 kg per person per month) and vegetable oil (900 cc per person per month).
- WFP provides cash assistance to 7,251 Afghan and Iraqi refugee households each month. In January, households headed by refugee women received a monthly cash amount of Iranian Rials (IRR) 1.2 million (US\$ 4.1) per person and households headed by refugee men received IRR 1 million (US\$ 3.4) per person.
- During the reporting period, WFP distributed school meals consisting of milk and biscuits in all settlements, reaching 8,766 students and their teachers.
- WFP provided 2,790 refugee girls with a cash incentive of IRR 500,000 (US\$ 2) transferred to their bank accounts. This is part of WFP Iran's efforts to promote education for refugee girls by providing them with cash for each month of regular school attendance.

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

Photo caption: Post Distribution Monitoring mission helps WFP to assess refugees' access to, use of, and satisfaction with the assistance provided. Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra

Iran Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) (January 2018 - March 2023)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (in US\$)
36 m	34 m
2023 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (February 2023 - July 2023)
12 m*	4.4 m

*Covering ICSP 2018-2023 and ICSP 2023-2025 requirements

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 final Post Distribution Monitoring report developed jointly with UNHCR in October 2022, was shared with Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA).

- 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, 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: cash incentive gives refugees the freedom of choice of food items which in turn will boost the economy of the settlements as the majority of the shops where refugees source their food are run by refugees themselves. Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra