



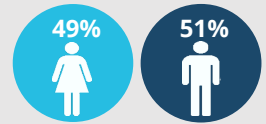
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Iran Country Brief January 2024



In Numbers



33,225 people assisted
in January 2024

448 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 177,807 distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$ 4.8 m six-month net funding requirements
(February- July 2024)

Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a lower-middle-income country with a population of 87 million. For the past 40 years, it hosted one of the largest and most protracted refugee populations in the world, recently estimated at about 3.4 million displaced people of different statuses who potentially need protection and humanitarian assistance. Most of the displaced people originate from Afghanistan and Iraq and live in urban areas, while some 33,000 of the most vulnerable refugees live in 20 settlements scattered across the country.

WFP Iran's Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP 2023-2025) was approved by the WFP Executive Board in February 2023. Under the ICSP, WFP assists 33,000 refugees through cash and in-kind food assistance, a refugee girls' education cash incentive, and a school feeding initiative consisting of nutritious school snacks. Moreover, WFP continues to equip refugees with complementary livelihood skills aimed at supporting their sustainable repatriation to their country of origin - once the situation is conducive. WFP has been present in Iran since 1987.



Population: **89.2 million**

2021 Human Development Index rank:
76 out of 191

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2022 Global Hunger Index:
29 out of 121 (6.5, Low)

Operational Updates

- WFP provides a monthly hybrid of cash and in-kind food assistance to refugees targeted for assistance.
 - In January, WFP's in-kind food assistance reached 33,225 Afghan and Iraqi refugees and Iranian teachers. The refugees were assisted with a total of 448 mt of fortified wheat flour (12 kg per person per month), vegetable oil (900 ml per person per month), milk, a date bar, and biscuits. Of the total assisted, 28 percent were women, 29 percent were men, 21 percent were girls, and 22 percent were boys.
 - WFP's direct cash transfer assistance was provided to 32,705 Afghan and Iraqi refugees living in 7,325 households in January. Households headed by refugee men received Iranian Rials (IRR) 2 million (US\$ 5.1) per person, while those headed by refugee women received a slightly higher monthly cash allocation, amounting to IRR 2.5 million (US\$ 6.3) per person due to limited access to work opportunities that may lead to higher food insecurity levels for women-headed households.
 - To maintain beneficiaries' purchasing power amid deteriorating economic conditions, since June 2023, WFP has increased the value of its cash assistance by 100 percent for men-headed households and by 108 percent for women-headed households.
 - Following WFP's Disability Inclusion workplan for 2023, WFP Iran implemented a pilot initiative in two settlements, Shahid Naseri of Markazi and Mohajerin of Semnan provinces, providing refugees with disabilities a monthly cash top-up of IRR 1 million (US\$ 2.6) in addition to their regular entitlement. In January 2024, the programme successfully reached all of the 100 beneficiaries targeted for assistance.

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Photo caption: WFP distributes wheat flour to 20 settlements so that refugees can have bread as their main food basket item.
Photo: ©WFP / Mohammad Khodabakhsh

Iran Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) (April 2023 - December 2025)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (in US\$)
37 m	8 m
2024 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Feb. 2024 – July 2024)
14 m	4.8 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food-insecure refugees and other crisis-affected populations 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: Crisis Response

Activities:

- **Activity 1:** Provide unconditional food assistance to food-insecure refugees and other vulnerable households.
- **Activity 2:** Provide conditional support, especially to refugee women and girls, to incentivize education and enhance livelihoods.
- **Activity 3:** Support national disaster response, especially through the provision of emergency food assistance to crisis-affected populations in Iran.
- **Activity 4:** Provide cash transfer, coordination, or other services to partners.

[WFP Iran 2022 Annual Country Report](#)

- In January, through WFP's school-based programme, a total of 9,077 refugee students, including their teachers, received date bars, milk, and biscuits as school snacks to support their school enrolment and attendance.
- In addition, WFP provided 2,726 refugee girls with a cash incentive of IRR 500,000 (US\$ 1.2) 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.

- In January, a total of 21 WFP-supported livelihood activities continued, including welding, tailoring, baking, farming, bag making, and suit making, supporting the income generation and resilience of 351 refugees (58 percent women and 42 percent men).

Monitoring

WFP conducted in January its monthly monitoring phone calls to verify the quality and quantity of assistance received, by at least 2.5 percent of refugee-assisted households. In January, WFP made 250 calls.

Partnerships

- The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Organization for Migration (NOM) are the main cooperating partners of WFP in Iran, coordinating all matters related to refugees and international agencies. Bi-annual coordination and monthly operational meetings take place between NOM, UNHCR, and WFP to monitor the refugee situation and discuss appropriate response actions.
- Given the refugee focus of operations in Iran, WFP also has a long-standing partnership with UNHCR. Together, WFP and UNHCR periodically conduct Joint Assessment Missions (JAM) with the latest assessment being done in April 2022. Distribution monitoring and post-distribution monitoring activities that are critical in understanding and tracking the state of refugee food security are also conducted jointly.

Donors (In alphabetical order)

Australia, the European Union, Germany, Japan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom, multilateral funds, and private donors.