



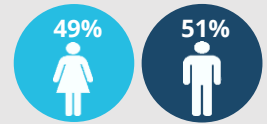
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Iran Country Brief June 2024



In Numbers



33,515 people assisted
in June 2024

430 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 167,453 distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$ 4.3 m six-month net funding requirements (July- December 2024)

Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran, a lower-middle-income country with a population of over 88 million, has hosted one of the largest and most protracted refugee populations in the world for the past 40 years. According to recent estimates by UNHCR, it is home to about 3.4 million displaced people of various 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 supports around 33,000 food-insecure 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: **88 million**

2022 Human Development Index rank:
78 out of 193

Income Level: **Lower middle**

2023 Global Hunger Index:
41 out of 125 (7.7, Low)

Operational Updates

WFP provides monthly hybrid support of cash and in-kind food assistance to targeted refugees:

- In June, **WFP's in-kind food assistance reached 33,515 Afghan and Iraqi refugees, as well as Iranian teachers.** The refugees were assisted with 430 mt of food supplies consisting of fortified wheat flour (12 kg per person per month) and vegetable oil (810 ml per person per month), while students and their teachers received daily date bars and/or a fortified biscuit per school day.
Of the total assisted, 28 percent were women, 29 percent were men, 21 percent were girls, and 22 percent were boys.
- From the same beneficiaries, WFP cash transfer assistance was provided to 32,913 Afghan and Iraqi refugees (7,236 households) in June.** Households headed by men received Iranian Rials (IRR) 2 million (US\$ 4.7) per person, while those headed by women received a slightly higher monthly cash allocation, amounting to IRR 2.5 million (US\$ 5.9) per person due to limited access to work opportunities that may lead to higher food insecurity levels for households headed by women.
- Since early 2023, as part of [WFP's 2023 Disability Inclusion Workplan](#), **WFP Iran has been providing additional support to refugees with disabilities.** Initially the top-up support was rolled out in Shahid Naseri settlement in Markazi province and the Mohajerin settlement in Semnan province. In June, the programme expanded to include Fars province, in addition to Khuzestan, Markazi, and Semnan provinces, raising the total number of beneficiaries assisted from 103 in April to 122 in June, across four refugee settlements. Refugees with disabilities receive a monthly cash top-up of IRR 1 million (about US\$ 2.3) in addition to their regular aid.

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

| Total Requirements (in US\$) | Total Received (in US\$) |
|------------------------------|--|
| 37 m | 11 m |
| 2024 Requirements (in US\$) | Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July 2024 - Dec. 2024) |
| 14 m | 4.3 m |

SDG target 1: 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

- **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.

SDG target 2: Partnerships

Strategic Outcome 2: Crisis-affected populations in Iran benefit from enhanced coordination and improved capacities of national entities and other partners to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies all year round.

Focus area: Crisis Response

- **Activity 4:** Provide cash transfer, coordination, or other services to partners.

[WFP Iran 2023 Annual Country Report](#)

- WFP Iran supported **51 refugee celiac beneficiaries** with specific gluten-free dietary needs, providing them with an extra cash amount of IRR 7.7 million (US\$ 18.23 per person) as a replacement for their usual food entitlement.
- In June, through **WFP’s school-based programme, 9,153 refugee students, including their teachers, received daily school snacks** consisting of date bars and/or fortified biscuits.

- In addition, **WFP provided 2,833 female student refugees with a monthly cash incentive of IRR 0.5 million (US\$ 1.1)**. This is an educational incentive to promote the school retention of refugee female students by providing them with cash support for each month of regular school attendance.
- To support the income generation and resilience of 352 refugees (59 percent women and 41 percent men), in June, **WFP continued 19 livelihood activities across 17 settlements**, including welding, tailoring, baking, and farming.

Monitoring

- WFP conducted 250 monthly monitoring phone calls (approximately 2.5 percent of refugee-assisted households) in June to verify the quality and quantity of assistance received by refugee households. Findings indicated that all households assisted were satisfied with the quality of the fortified vegetable oil and wheat flour provided.

Partnerships

- WFP in Iran works closely with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Organization for Migration (NOM) to coordinate refugee-related matters. Coordination meetings take place every six months between NOM, UNHCR, and WFP to monitor the situation and discuss appropriate response actions.
- Given the refugee focus of operations in Iran, WFP also has a long-standing partnership with UNHCR, conducting joint periodic assessments, including distribution and post-distribution monitoring activities, to track the food security of refugees in Iran. The latest assessment was done in October 2023.

Funding Outlook

- WFP Iran operations are currently 28 percent funded and require additional vital funding amounting to US\$ 4.3 million to continue supporting refugees until the end of the year.

Since January 2024, significant funding shortfalls forced WFP Iran to remove milk from school snacks, affecting more than 9,000 refugee school children. Funding is crucial to resume the provision of milk to help schoolchildren meet their daily nutrient needs and support their overall well-being.

Donors (In alphabetical order):

The European Union (ECHO), multilateral funds, and private donors.