



World Food Programme

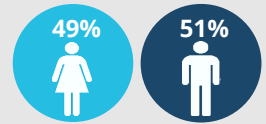
SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

## WFP Iran Country Brief July 2024



## In Numbers

32,967 people assisted  
in July 2024



437 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 159,239 distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$ 4 m six-month net funding requirements  
(August 2024- January 2025)

### 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

- In July, WFP provided **32,967 Afghan and Iraqi refugees (7,236 households)** with **monthly general food assistance through a hybrid modality** of in-kind food and cash-based transfers.
  - Under in-kind, **a total of 437 mt of food** consisting of fortified wheat flour (12 kg per person) and vegetable oil (810 ml per person) was distributed.
  - Under cash-based transfers, **Iranian Rials (IRR) 2 million (US\$ 4.6)** per person was disbursed to refugee households headed by men, while those headed by women received a slightly higher monthly allocation of IRR 2.5 million (US\$ 5.8) per person due to limited access to work opportunities that may lead to higher food insecurity levels for households headed by women.
  - As part of WFP's Disability Inclusion Workplan, **WFP Iran has been providing additional cash support to refugees with disabilities.** Initially the top-up support was rolled out in Shahid Naseri settlement in Markazi province and Mohajerin settlement in Semnan province. In July, the programme expanded to include West Azerbaijan province in addition to Fars, Khuzestan, Markazi, and Semnan provinces, raising the total number of beneficiaries assisted from 103 in May to 125 in July, across five 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.
  - 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.

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

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (in US\$)
<b>37 m</b>	<b>12.1 m</b>
2024 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (August 2024 – Jan. 2025)
<b>13.5 m</b>	<b>4 m</b>

**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's school-based programme**, supporting around **9,000 refugee students and Iranian teachers** with school snacks and providing conditional **cash incentives for school education** to around **3,000 female students**, was paused for July, August, and September due to the summer school break.
- To support the income generation and **resilience of 346 refugees** (59 percent women and 41 percent men), in July, **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 July, to verify the quality and quantity of assistance received. 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) / Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (BAFIA) 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 36 percent funded and require additional vital funding amounting to US\$ 4 million to continue supporting refugees for the next six months.
- WFP recently received a €1.5 million (US\$ 1.6 million) contribution from the European Commission to support 33,000 refugees in Iran through cash-based transfers, enhancing their living conditions and supporting local markets.

### Donors (In alphabetical order)

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