



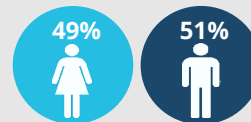
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Iran Country Brief December 2024



In Numbers



33,864 people assisted in December 2024

409 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 319,609 distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$ 1.2 m six-month net funding requirements (January to June 2025)

Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran, an upper-middle-income country with a population of over 88 million, is one of the world's largest refugee-hosting countries, generously providing 3.8 million refugees and refugee-like persons access to health, education, and livelihood opportunities for over 40 years, as per UNHCR. 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 2023-2027) 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 resilience and preparedness for voluntary sustainable repatriation to their country of origin once the situation is conducive.

WFP has been operating in Iran since 1962, initially for its first emergency earthquake response until 1978, and subsequently reinitiating operations to address the refugee crisis from 1987 onwards.



Population: 89.8 million

2022 Human Development Index rank: 78 out of 193

Income Level: Upper-middle

2024 Global Hunger Index: 38 out of 127 (7.4, Low)

Operational Updates

- In December, WFP provided **33,215 Afghan and Iraqi refugees (7,370 households)** with **monthly general food assistance through a hybrid combination** of in-kind food and cash-based transfers.
 - **Under in-kind, a total of 409 mt of food** consisting of fortified wheat flour (12 kg per person) and fortified vegetable oil (810 ml per person) was distributed.
 - **Under cash-based transfers**, in December, WFP distributed cash assistance to refugee households, with **men-headed households (MHH) receiving Iranian Rials (IRR) 2.5 million (US\$ 4.6) per person**, and **women-headed households (WHH) receiving IRR 3 million (US\$ 5.5) per person**, to address higher food insecurity risks faced by women having limited access to work opportunities.
 - Due to the approaching **winter lean season**, under authorization by the Center for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (CAFIA), of the Ministry of Interior, WFP doubled its cash assistance to all beneficiaries in settlements for December 2024. This extra allocation aimed to safeguard food security during the lean agriculture season and enhance the purchasing power of refugees, given restricted income opportunities.

The winterization top-up, equivalent to the standard cash entitlement for December, was provided to both male-headed and female-headed households.

- As part of **WFP's Disability Inclusion Workplan**, in 2024 WFP Iran has been providing **additional monthly cash support of IRR 1.5 million (US\$ 2.7) to refugees with disabilities** across nine refugee settlements, on top of their regular aid. In December, WFP Iran included an additional 10 refugees, reaching a total of 271 persons. This follows the programme's expansion in October, covering Kerman, Lorestan, West Azerbaijan, Fars, Khuzestan, Markazi, and Semnan provinces after initially being introduced to two refugee settlements across two provinces.

Iran Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)
(April 2023 - December 2027)

Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (in US\$)
43 m	14.8 m
2024 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January to June 2025)
8 m	1.2 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’s cash assistance in Iran continued to include support for **52 refugee celiac patients with specific gluten-free dietary needs**, providing them with an extra cash amount of IRR 7.7 million (\$ 14.27 per person), complementing their food entitlement.
- In December, through **WFP’s school-based programme, 9,252 refugee students, including their teachers, received daily school snacks** consisting of milk, date bars and/or fortified biscuits.
- To assist the income generation and **resilience of 312 refugees** (51 percent women and 49 percent men), in December, WFP continued supporting 22 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 December to verify the quality and quantity of assistance received.
- The data collection exercise for deriving the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) of settlements was completed in November, with the report expected to be available in early 2025. Initial findings from the study indicate potential for improving food and cash entitlements.

Partnerships

- WFP in Iran works closely with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CAFIA to coordinate refugee-related matters. Coordination meetings take place every six months between CAFIA, 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.

Funding Outlook

- WFP Iran operations are 72 percent funded for the next six months. WFP requires vital funding amounting to US\$ 1.2 million to continue its planned response.

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