



World Food Programme

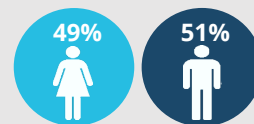
SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES

## WFP Iran Country Brief March 2025



## In Numbers

**33,915 people assisted**  
in March 2025



**542 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 259,917** distributed through cash-based transfers

**US\$ 1 m** six-month net funding requirements (April to September 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 March, WFP provided **general food assistance to 33,269 Afghan and Iraqi refugees (7,343 households)**, through a **hybrid combination** of in-kind food and cash-based transfers.
  - **Under in-kind food assistance**, WFP distributed **542 mt of fortified food in March**, consisting of wheat flour (12 kg per person) and vegetable oil (810 ml per person).
  - **Under cash-based transfers**, following the revision of WFP's Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) conducted in November 2024, the Centre for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (CAFIA) confirmed adjustments to cash transfer values starting in January.

In March, WFP continued to provide the increased cash transfers to better support essential living costs. The amount doubled from IRR 2.5 million (US\$ 3.6) to IRR 5 million (US\$5.3) for men-headed households and from IRR 3 million (US\$ 4.4) to IRR 6 million (US\$ 8.7) for women-headed households.
  - WFP supported 373 refugees with disabilities in March across nine settlements, each receiving an **additional monthly cash support of IRR 3 million (US\$ 4.4)**, on top of their regular aid. In March, assistance covered Kerman, Lorestan, West Azerbaijan, Fars, Khuzestan, Markazi, Khorasan Razavi, and Semnan provinces after initially being introduced to two refugee settlements across two provinces.
  - WFP's cash assistance in Iran continued to include monthly support as well for **52 refugee celiac patients with specific dietary needs**, providing them with an extra cash amount of IRR 7.7 million (US\$ 11.27 per person), complementing their food entitlement.

Iran Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) (April 2023 - December 2027)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (in US\$)
43 m	18 m
2025 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (April to September 2025)
8.2 m	1 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 2024 Annual Country Report](#)

- **WFP's school feeding programme, reached 9,239 refugee students and their teachers, in March, with daily snacks** consisting of milk, date bars and/or fortified biscuits.
- Additionally, WFP provided **2,596 refugee girls** with a monthly cash incentive of IRR 1 million (US\$ 1.4). This is an educational incentive to promote the school retention of refugee girls by providing them with cash support for each month of regular school attendance.
- To assist the **income generation and resilience of 329 refugees (53 percent women)** in March, WFP continued supporting **23 livelihood activities across 17 settlements**. Activities included welding, tailoring, baking, and farming.

- [The 2024 Annual Country Report \(ACR\) for Iran](#) has been published, highlighting that WFP reached 33,872 beneficiaries in 2024, providing vital support through food assistance and cash-based transfers.  
👉 [Read the full report here](#)

Monitoring

- WFP conducted 250 monthly monitoring phone calls (approximately 2.5 percent of refugee-assisted households) in March to verify the quality and quantity of assistance received.

Partnerships

- WFP in Iran works closely with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and CAFIA to coordinate refugee-related matters. Semi-annual coordination meetings take place with CAFIA and UNHCR 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, 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 75 percent funded for the next six months. WFP requires vital funding amounting to US\$ 1 million to continue its planned response.

Donors

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