



World Food Programme

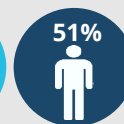
SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Iran Country Brief June 2025



In Numbers

33,935 people assisted
in June 2025



380 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 256,276 distributed through cash-based transfers

USD 0.9 m six-month net funding requirements
(July to December 2025)

Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran, an upper-middle-income country with a population of over 89 million, is the world's largest refugee-hosting country, providing 3.5 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 over 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**

2023 Human Development Index rank:
75 out of 192

Income Level: **Upper-middle**

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

Operational Updates

- In the wake of the recent escalation in Iran, WFP remained firmly committed to those it supports. Operations in Iran continued without disruption, with field teams ensuring uninterrupted and safe delivery of food assistance to the most vulnerable refugees in settlements. This sustained presence amid heightened tensions underscores WFP's operational resilience, strong local partnerships, and decades of experience operating in complex and volatile contexts.
- In June, WFP provided **general food assistance to 33,292 Afghan and Iraqi refugees (7,348 households)**, through a hybrid combination of in-kind food and cash-based transfers (CBT).
 - Under the in-kind food assistance**, WFP distributed **380 mt of fortified food**, consisting of wheat flour (12 kg per person) and vegetable oil (810 ml per person).
 - Under the CBT**, WFP continued to provide increased cash transfers to better support essential living costs. Since January 2025, the transfer has doubled to IRR 5 million (USD 7.2) to men-headed households and to IRR 6 million (USD 8.7) for women-headed households.
 - WFP supported **388** refugees with disabilities across ten settlements, each receiving an **additional monthly cash support of IRR 3 million (USD 4.3)**, on top of the regular assistance. Assistance, initially launched in two refugee settlements across two provinces, is currently expanded to cover Kerman, Lorestan, West Azerbaijan, Fars, Khuzestan, Markazi, Khorasan Razavi, and Semnan provinces.
 - WFP's monthly cash assistance continued to support **52 refugee celiac patients with specific dietary needs**, providing them with an extra cash amount of IRR 9.7 million (USD 14.13 per person), to complement their food entitlement.

Iran Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP)

(April 2023 - December 2027)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
43 m	18 m
2025 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (July - December 2025)
8.2 m	0.9 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 9,234 refugee students and their teachers in June, with daily snacks** consisting of milk, date bars and/or fortified biscuits.
- Additionally, WFP provided **2,628 refugee schoolgirls** with a monthly cash incentive of IRR 2 million (USD 2.9). 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.

Operational Updates

- To enhance the economic resilience and self-sufficiency of **326** refugees (49 percent women) in June, WFP

continued its support for 24 income-generating initiatives across 18 settlements. Activities included welding, tailoring, baking, and farming, among others.

Monitoring

- WFP continuously verifies the quality and quantity of assistance provided to beneficiaries. In June, WFP conducted 180 monthly monitoring phone calls (approximately 2.5 percent of refugee-assisted households).
- The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) report was shared with the Center for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (CAFIA), following an exercise conducted in late 2024 with technical support from WFP's Regional Office. The exercise aimed to define a specific MEB for refugees residing in settlements. Data collection was carried out through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with refugees during field visits to Saveh, Semnan, Abazar, and Rafsanjan settlements, complemented by remote interviews with beneficiaries from four additional settlements: Sarvestan, Ardakan, Ziveh, and Torbat-e Jam.

Partnerships

- WFP 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.
- WFP welcomed a generous contribution of USD 2.3 million (€2 million) from the European Union to provide cash assistance to 33,000 refugees across 20 settlements in Iran, to enable them to meet their essential needs. This partnership helps uphold the dignity of refugees by ensuring consistent access to adequate and nutritious food.
- WFP welcomed a contribution of USD 8,800 (€7,500) from New Zealand which will help to establish an innovation center in Semnan settlements, marking New Zealand's first support to refugees in Iran. WFP was selected for its unique access to 20 settlements across the country, enabling effective implementation and broad reach. WFP is currently coordinating with CAFIA and settlement authorities to initiate implementation.

Funding Outlook

- WFP Iran operations are **71 percent** funded for the next six months and require **USD 0.9 million** to sustain its activities throughout 2025.

Donors

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