



World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Iran Country Brief October 2025



In Numbers

32,941 people assisted
in October 2025



354 mt of food assistance distributed

USD \$243,903
distributed through cash-based transfers

USD 1.9 m six-month net funding requirements
(November 2025 – April 2026)

Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran, an upper-middle-income country with a population of over 91 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's data. Most of the displaced people originate from Afghanistan and Iraq and live in urban areas, while some 35,000 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: **90.6 million**

2023 Human Development Index rank:
75 out of 193

Income Level: **Upper-middle**

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

Operational Updates

- In October, WFP provided **general food assistance to 32,941 Afghan and Iraqi refugees (7,270 households)**, through a **hybrid combination** of in-kind food and cash-based transfers (CBT).
- Under the in-kind food assistance**, WFP distributed **354 mt of fortified food**, consisting of wheat flour (12 kg per person) and vegetable oil (810 ml per person).
- Under CBT programming**, WFP continued to provide cash transfers to better support essential living costs. The transfer is Iranian Rial (IRR) 5 million (USD 7.1) for households headed by men and IRR 6 million (USD 8.6) for households headed by women.
- WFP provided **additional monthly cash assistance of IRR 3 million (USD 4.3) to 402 refugees** living with disabilities across eleven settlements, **on top of their regular entitlements**. Initially launched in two refugee settlements across two provinces, the initiative was gradually expanded to cover 11 settlements: Saveh, Semnan, Bani Najar, Sarvestan, Bezileh, Abazar, Rafsanjan, Bardsir, Jahrom, Meybod, and Torbat-e Jam.
- WFP's monthly cash assistance continued to support **53 refugee celiac patients with specific dietary needs**, providing an extra cash amount of IRR 9.7 million (USD 13.9 per person), to complement their food entitlement.
- WFP Iran launched "**Tastes of Iran**" (چشیدنی‌ها کم نیست), a nationwide campaign celebrating the country's rich culinary heritage and cultural diversity. "Tastes of Iran" is a journey from desert to forest, from plains to sea, a search for flavors that are not just tastes of food but tastes of life itself. The campaign invites people to share traditional family or local recipes along with photos or AI-generated artwork. The initiative aims to preserve food traditions, spark creativity and connect communities through shared flavors and memories. Top entries will be featured in a digital book and showcased online.

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Photo caption: WFP staff oversee delivery to ensure efficiency and accountability for vulnerable refugees.
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Iran Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) (April 2023 - December 2027)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)
43 m	21 m
2025 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (November 2025 – April 2026)
8.2 m	1.9 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](#)

Monitoring

- Each month, WFP conducts approximately 200 telephone interviews, representing 2.5 percent of refugee-assisted households, to assess the quality and quantity of aid provided.
- Given persistent logistical constraints and the significant number of participants in the joint Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise, this year's assessment was conducted remotely through phone interviews. WFP engaged six enumerators to conduct these interviews with randomly selected beneficiaries at CAFIA premises. The sample included seven major settlements: Rafsanjan, Bardsir, Torbat-e Jam, Bani Najar, Saveh, Semnan, and Ardakan—all regularly participating in the annual PDM process.
- Data collection for the current PDM was carried out from 19 October to 3 November, following a three-day training session at WFP premises, which prepared enumerators on both the questionnaire content and interview protocols.
- A total of 381 questionnaires were completed during this round of PDM. Data analysis is currently underway, and preliminary findings are expected by mid-November.

Partnerships

- WFP Iran works closely with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Center for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (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 **54 percent** funded for the next six months and require **USD 1.9 million** to sustain its activities throughout April 2026.

Donors

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



WFP Iran Country Strategy | October 2025