



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## WFP Iran Country Brief November 2025

### 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)**

### In Numbers

**33,077 people assisted**  
in November 2025



**329 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD \$189,152**  
distributed through cash-based transfers

**USD 4 m** six-month net funding requirements  
(December 2025 – May 2026)

### Operational Updates

- In November, WFP provided **general food assistance to 33,077 Afghan and Iraqi refugees (8,514 households)**, through a hybrid combination of in-kind food and cash-based transfers (CBT).
- Under the in-kind food assistance**, WFP distributed **329 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 5.6) for households headed by men and IRR 6 million (USD 6.8) for households headed by women.
- WFP provided **additional monthly cash assistance of IRR 3 million (USD 3.4) to 404 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 **54 refugee celiac patients with specific dietary needs**, providing an extra cash amount of IRR 9.7 million (USD 11 per person), to complement their food entitlement.
- Insufficient funding delayed the start of WFP's school feeding programme at the beginning of the academic year. Now that contributions have been secured, procurement activities are beginning and assistance is expected to resume in December.

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) (December 2025 – May 2026)
8.2 m	4 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.

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- In November, WFP supported 25 income-generating projects in 18 settlements to improve economic resilience and self-sufficiency for 363 refugees, 50 percent of whom were women. These activities included welding, tailoring, baking, farming, and other trades.

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 large 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 who carried out interviews with randomly selected 371 beneficiaries at CAFIA premises, covering seven major settlements, Rafsanjan, Bardsir, Torbat-e Jam, Bani Najar, Saveh, Semnan, and Ardakan, all regular participants in the annual PDM process. Data collection took place from 19 October to 3 November, following a three-day training at WFP premises that equipped the enumerators with the necessary knowledge of the questionnaire content and interview protocols.

- The initial PDM results indicate an improvement in the Food Consumption Score compared to last year, which can be attributed to the increase in cash entitlements implemented at the beginning of 2025, as well as the winterization top-up distributed in December 2024 and an additional top-up in July 2025.
- WFP Country Office will conduct a Joint Assessment Mission from 7 to 19 December, with support from the WFP Regional Vulnerability and Assessment experts, and in collaboration with UNHCR. The mission will involve reviewing secondary data and collecting information through visits to four settlements: Saveh, Abazar, Rafsanjan, and Taft. The findings from this mission will inform the next ICSP and contribute to the future planning of both agencies.

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 73 percent funded for the next six months and require USD 4 million to sustain its activities throughout May 2026.
- In mid-November, WFP Iran received a USD 1 million multilateral allocation under its ICSP, enabling partial implementation of the school meals programme and securing planned wheat flour assistance.

Donors

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