



## WFP Iran



### COUNTRY BRIEF

April 2026

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Despite the escalation in the region, WFP remains steadfast in its commitment to the people it serves. The operation in Iran continues without disruption, with teams on the ground ensuring uninterrupted delivery of food and cash assistance to the most vulnerable refugees residing in settlements.
- In March, following the escalation, around 7,000 additional refugees were integrated into existing settlements and referred to WFP for assistance to support their food needs. By integrating these newly identified refugees into ongoing assistance programmes, WFP has adjusted its response to support their access to regular food assistance, while this inclusion is expected to increase the agency's monthly funding requirements to sustain adequate support.

#### IN NUMBERS



**34,032** people assisted in March 2026



**51%**  
Male



**49%**  
Female



**250 mt** food distributed



**USD 294,493** cash transferred



**USD 1.6M** (April – Sept 2026) net funding requirements

#### SITUATION OVERVIEW

The Islamic Republic of Iran, an upper-middle-income country of over 91 million people, is among the world's largest refugee-hosting nations, sheltering around **2.5 million** forcibly displaced people according to UNHCR—and up to **6.1 million** per government figures, including unregistered individuals—mainly from Afghanistan and Iraq, living in urban areas. With no viable return options, sustained assistance remains critical, particularly for over 33,000 highly vulnerable refugees living in 20 settlements nationwide.

WFP Iran's [Interim Country Strategic Plan \(ICSP 2023-2027\)](#) 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.

In light of the recent escalation in the region and resulting internal displacement in the country, WFP continues to monitor the situation and activated its emergency preparedness capacities to support the Government to meet any emerging needs.

**For further details please refer to [Middle East Regional Escalation Emergency Response External Situation Reports](#).**

**Photo Caption & Credit:** WFP distributes wheat flour to refugees in 20 settlements. WFP/Neda Mobarra

## OPERATIONAL UPDATES

### General Assistance

- In March, WFP provided **general food assistance to 33,424 Afghan and Iraqi refugees (7,405 households), through a hybrid combination** of in-kind food and cash-based transfers (CBT).
  - Under the in-kind food assistance**, WFP distributed **242 mt of fortified** wheat flour (ration of 9 kg per person, reduced from 12 kg since the month of November due to funding shortfalls).
  - Under the cash-based assistance (CBT)**, WFP continued to support essential living costs of vulnerable refugees. Monthly transfers were set at IRR 8 million (USD 5.7 for male-headed households and IRR 9 million (USD 6.5) for female-headed households. In addition, a supplementary top-up equivalent to half of the monthly entitlement was disbursed to beneficiaries' bank cards.
  - Moreover, WFP provided **additional monthly cash assistance of IRR 3 million (USD 2.1) to 408 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 **57** refugeeeliac patients with specific dietary needs, providing an extra cash amount of IRR 9.7 million (USD 7 per person), to complement their food entitlement.

### School-Based Assistance

- As schools shifted to remote learning amid rising hostilities, WFP transitioned to take-home rations, distributing biscuits and date bars to **8,303** refugee students and their teachers. Milk could not be procured due to funding constraints and high costs. A total of 4.6 mt of

date bars and 3.8 mt of fortified biscuits were distributed.

- Additionally, WFP provided **2,618** refugee girls with a monthly cash incentive of IRR 2 million (US\$ 1.4). This is an educational incentive to promote the school retention of refugee girls by providing them with cash.

### Resilience and Livelihood Support

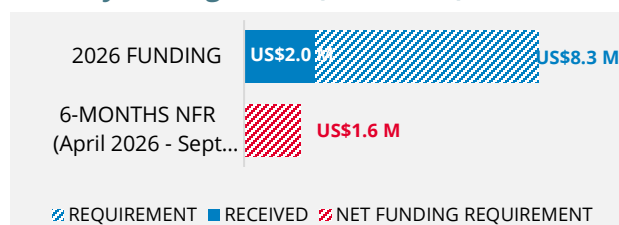
- In March, WFP supported 26 income-generating projects in 18 settlements to improve economic resilience and self-sufficiency for **364** refugees, 50 percent of whom were women. These activities included welding, tailoring, baking, farming, and other trades.

### Monitoring

- Since the onset of escalation on 2 March, large-scale population movements have been observed across Iran, with around 3.2 million people, equivalent to approximately 600,000 to 1 million households, estimated to be temporarily displaced across the country, including residents from affected areas of Tehran.
- Following the crisis, around 7,000 additional refugees with Temporary Amayesh 3 cards have reportedly been newly identified and referred to WFP by the Iranian Government for assistance. They have been integrated into existing Mohajerin and Saveh settlements and started to receive in-kind. With the inclusion of these people in the coming months, WFP monthly funding requirements for both in-kind and cash assistance are expected to increase.

## FUNDING OVERVIEW\*

### Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)



\*Funding requirements reflect the needs of WFP regular activities in Iran, ahead of the escalation.

### Donors:

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