



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Iran Country Brief May 2022

Operational Context

The Islamic Republic of Iran, an upper middle-income country with a population of 83 million, is hosting the world's fourth largest refugee community. The Government of Iran has generously hosted approximately 1 million refugees for the past 30 years. The majority, which mainly came from Afghanistan and Iraq, live in urban areas. Approximately 31,000 of the most vulnerable refugees live in 20 settlements located throughout the country.

WFP Iran works under its Interim [Country Strategic Plan \(2018-2020\)](#) extended until the end of 2022 to align it with both the United Nations development assistance framework (2017-2021), which has been extended for one additional year, and the National Development Plan (2016-2022). The New ICSP for 2023-2025 is also under development. WFP assists 31,000 beneficiaries yearly through unconditional food assistance, in addition to the provision of a girls' education cash incentive, and a school feeding initiative consisting of nutritious school snacks.

Moreover, WFP continues to support refugees' livelihoods through activities aiming to provide them with complementary skills in view of a sustainable repatriation to their country of origin once the situation is conducive. WFP has been present in Iran since 1987.



Population: **83 million**

2020 Human Development Index:
70 out of 188

Income Level: **Upper middle**

2021 Global Hunger Index:
35 out of 116 (7.7, Low)

In Numbers



31,195 people assisted
in May 2022

366 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 129,214 distributed through cash-based transfers

US\$ 0 six-months net funding requirements
(June – November 2022)

Operational Updates

- In May, WFP successfully reached 31,195 refugees as per the target, of whom 8,747 were women, 8,999 men, 6,419 girls, and 7,030 boys plus 628 Iranian teachers. The assisted people received 366 MT of fortified wheat flour, lentils, vegetable oil, date bars, milk, and biscuits.
- Schools inside settlements are continuing in person in their respective provinces. School snacks distribution continued during the month of May reaching 8,145 refugee students.
- As part of its efforts to promote education for refugee girls, WFP Iran provided monthly monetary incentives of Iranian Rials (IRR) 500,000 (US\$ 2) to 2,809 refugee girls in May in recognition of their regular attendance in school.
- By providing supplementary rations and maintaining monthly assistance to the refugees through a combination of cash and food, WFP is reducing the economic impact on beneficiaries caused by the pandemic, such as surging inflation and rising food prices.
- WFP will continue to provide food assistance in the form of dry foods and ready-to-eat meals for the new arrivals from Afghanistan.

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Photo caption: WFP distributes school feeding items to refugee students residing in settlements. Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra (Mohajerin settlement, Semnan province)

Iran Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (in US\$)
35 m	30 m
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (June 2022- November 2022)
5 m	-

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food insecure refugees in Iran are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs throughout the year.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Activity 1: Provide unconditional food assistance to food insecure refugees
- Activity 2: Provide conditional support to women and girl refugees to incentivize and facilitate educational and livelihood activities

[WFP Iran 2021 Annual Country Report](#)

Monitoring

- Remote monitoring calls are ongoing. Every month, 2.5 percent of the refugee households are selected randomly and contacted via phone. During the calls, personal and household information is confirmed, and refugees are asked whether they have received their monthly cash and food entitlements. Furthermore, the quality and quantity of assistance received are also verified.
- The Joint Assessment Mission report (JAM) was finalized jointly by WFP Regional Bureau of Cairo, and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The report will be translated and shared with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) in June for implementation of its recommendations.
- WFP programme and supply chain units will conduct monitoring missions to seven Iraqi settlements (Soltanieh, Ziveh, Dilzeh, Bezileh, Songhor, Varmahang, and Abazar) in Iran in June. These visits aim to monitor the food and cash distribution process, warehouse management, and the situation of food prices in the market.

Partnerships

- The Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and BAFIA are the main cooperating partners of WFP in Iran. BAFIA is responsible for coordinating all matters related to refugees and international agencies. Bi-annual meetings take place between BAFIA, UNHCR and WFP. Monthly operational coordination meetings are also held to monitor the refugee situation and discuss appropriate response actions.
- WFP has a long-standing partnership with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), given the nature of WFP operations in Iran in refugee settlements. In this context, JAM, joint distribution and joint post-distribution monitoring take place regularly.

Donors

Japan, Germany, Republic of Korea, People's Republic of China, United Kingdom, multilateral funds, and private donors.



Photo caption: WFP warehouse in Taft settlement, Yazd province. Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra