



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Iran Country Brief June 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



**32,290 people assisted**  
in June 2022

**390 MT** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 129,189** distributed through cash-based transfers

**US\$ 0.4 m** six-months (July - December 2022) net funding requirements

### Operational Updates

- In June, WFP successfully reached 32,290 refugees as per the target, of whom 9,054 were women, 9,305 men, 6,649 girls, and 7,282 boys plus 628 Iranian teachers. The assisted people received 390 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 June reaching 8,145 refugee students.
- As part of the efforts to promote education for refugee girls, WFP Iran provided monthly monetary incentives of Iranian Rials (IRR) 500,000 (US\$ 2) to 2,810 refugee girls in June in recognition of their regular school attendance.
- Due to the closure of schools during summer, there will be no school feeding and cash incentive distributions in July, August and September.
- 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.

**Photo caption:** WFP distributes wheat flour to refugees residing in 20 settlements. Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra (Jahrom settlement, Fars province)

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Iran Country Strategic Plan (2018-2022)	
Total Requirements (in US\$)	Total Received (in US\$)
<b>35 m</b>	<b>30 m</b>
2022 Requirements (in US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July 2022- December 2022)
<b>5 m</b>	<b>0.4 m</b>

**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 was translated and shared with the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs (BAFIA) in June for implementation of its recommendations.
- Programme and supply chain units in WFP Iran conducted monitoring missions to seven Iraqi settlements inside the country (Soltanieh, Ziveh, Dilzeh, Bezileh, Songhor, Varmahang, and Abazar) in June. The initial finding shows that there is a great request for increasing the quantity of both in-kind and cash assistance due to recent considerable

inflation in the market. The report of the mission will be finalized in the coming month.

## 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:** Elyas, two years old living in Jahrom settlement in Fars province, is holding a bread that his mother baked with WFP's wheat flour. Photo: WFP / Neda Mobarra