



WFP Iran Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Food Assistance and Education Incentive for Afghan and Iraqi Refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200310 (July 2013- Dec. 2017)	16.9 m	17.1 m (101%)	-

*October 2017 – March 2018; considering projected requirements for the ICSP

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200310

WFP aims to ensure basic food security for vulnerable Afghan and Iraqi refugee households living in refugee settlements in Iran. WFP, UNHCR and the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants' Affairs (BAFIA) assess, through vulnerability criteria, those households eligible to receive full food basket meeting 100 percent of daily energy requirements for vulnerable refugees. This includes female-headed households; with an elderly, or chronically ill person; with a person living with disabilities; with one breadwinner considered "extremely vulnerable". Currently 45 percent of the targeted refugees are considered extremely vulnerable. The food basket consists of fortified wheat flour, fortified vegetable oil, rice, sugar and lentils.

A partial entitlement is provided to the vulnerable households (covering 55 percent of the people targeted) who are able to meet some of their food needs through other sources. The partial entitlement includes fortified wheat flour, fortified vegetable oil and lentils, covering over 60 percent of their daily caloric requirements. Since this group has at least one breadwinner in the household, they are able to provide their remaining 40 percent of food requirements.

WFP supports girls and young people from the assisted refugee settlements in completing their education. Take-home entitlements of fortified vegetable oil are provided as an incentive for families to encourage the enrolment and continued attendance of girls in primary and secondary schools and young male and female beneficiaries who attend skills training courses. Youth from the settlements receive

Highlights

- In September, WFP assisted 13,028 refugees with full entitlements and 15,855 with partial entitlements (8,087 woman 6,066 girls 8,087 men and 6,643 boys).

an incentive of vegetable oil to attend technical training courses to increase their livelihood opportunities. The implemented activities are consistent with WFP Strategic Objective 1, to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies and 2, to support or restore food security and nutrition and establish or rebuild livelihoods in fragile settings and following emergencies. Through this operation, WFP aims to improve food consumption and dietary diversity of vulnerable refugee households and to increase access to education and human capital development for refugee children and youth.

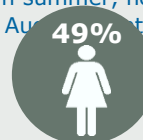
WFP and UNHCR conducted a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) in May 2016, which recommended periodic review of all joint operations to assess refugees' food vulnerability, capacities and nutritional needs, and to ensure they are adequately addressed through the ongoing operation. The JAM recommended an inter-sectorial assessment be conducted to ascertain the feasibility of transitioning the transfer modality of assistance from in-kind to cash-based transfers (CBT). A follow-up inter-sectorial assessment was conducted in August 2016, of which one key recommendation was the adoption of a hybrid system to provide refugees with unconditional cash alongside in-kind distribution of wheat flour. The recommendations will be implemented with the start of Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) 1st of January, 2018.

In Numbers

30,000 targeted refugees

28,883* refugees received WFP food assistance in September

* Due to school holidays in summer, no distribution of oil for a period of 3 months (July, August, September)



Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Dara Darbandi
Caption: WFP warehouse in Saveh Settlement, Markazi Province



September 2017

Operational Updates

- In September, all five food commodities were available in all settlements without any reductions.
- In September, 113 female and 81 male refugee participated in skills training courses such as embroidery, sewing, plumbing and etc in four settlements of Bardsir, Ardakan, Meybod and Torbat e Jam and received 4 bottles of cooking oil as incentive
- WFP is in the process of local purchase of 308 MT rice, 37 MT sugar, 110 MT lentils, 39 MT vegetable oil and 709 MT wheat flour to cover requirement for first three months of 2018 following USD 1 million cash contribution from the Republic of China. This is to ensure food security of refugees during the shift from in-kind to cash-based transfers (CBT) as of January 2018, start of the ICSP.
- A process monitoring exercise was conducted from 23-31 July in seven settlements (Soltanieh, Ziveh, Dilzeh, Bezileh, Varmahang, Songor and Abazar). The report will be finalized and shared with BAFIA mid-November. Overall results indicate that food management was in line with WFP guidelines and that refugees were satisfied with quality of food commodities received during the past six months.

Partnerships

- All international humanitarian assistance for refugees is administered by BAFIA, the government department responsible for refugee affairs. BAFIA is accountable to and responsible for WFP customs clearance, storage and distribution of WFP commodities. The Refugee Council at each settlement constitutes the Food Management Committee, where men and women refugee members participate in food storage and distribution under the supervision of BAFIA. WFP's PRRO is implemented in close cooperation and coordination with UNHCR.

Gender

- WFP, together with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrant Affairs (BAFIA), continues to advocate for greater participation of women in social, and cultural activities through arranging meetings with provincial authorities, refugee councils, settlement authorities and men and women themselves during monitoring visits. A shift in the perception of decision making regarding the use of food was observed during the 2016 post distribution monitoring (PDM). From 2015 to 2016 there was a slight shift in decision making from 'female' (87 to 73 percent respectively) to 'both male and female members' sharing responsibilities (9 to 18 percent). The issuance of WFP entitlement cards under the name of women for each household, which has become standard practice for WFP over the years, has in part contributed to the empowerment of women at household level.

Country Background & Strategy



The Islamic Republic of Iran, is an upper-middle income country with a population of 80,481,000 people, and is the world's fourth largest refugee-hosting country. Despite efforts to facilitate the repatriation of refugees living in Iran, a significant number of poor and food insecure refugee households continue to require humanitarian support, including WFP food assistance. Currently 30,000 of the most vulnerable refugees, live in the 20 settlements throughout the country receiving WFP Food assistance since 1987. The organization is now planning to shift most of its food assistance with cash. While families continue to receive a small amount of wheat flour, the bulk of the assistance is handed out in cash, which can be spent in shops and markets inside the settlements. This restores the dignity and diversifies the dietary intake of refugees, who are now able to buy food of their own choice; benefits the community as a whole by encouraging purchases in local shops; and increases the efficiency of assistance. In another shift from its traditional modus operandi in the country, WFP is also supporting activities that will enhance the livelihoods of refugees and equip them with better skills to rebuild their lives once they go back to their countries.

Total refugees: 979,410

2015 Human Development Index:
69 out of 188

Income Level: Middle income

Gender Inequality Index: 69 out of
188

Donors

Republic of Korea, Germany, People's Republic of China. multilateral funds and private sector